



THE INDEPENDENT

No 3,779

THURSDAY 26 NOVEMBER 1998

(150p) 45p

Should I tell my parents I blame them? DILEMMAS, PAGE 10

Clooney – a real movie star at last FILM, PAGE 12

IN THE THURSDAY REVIEW

Helping boys to do better at school

IN THE EDUCATION TABLOID



Anita Gonzalez lost her family in the Pinochet years. For her, and countless others, justice was done yesterday

THE HOUSE of Lords made legal history yesterday by ruling that General Augusto Pinochet was not immune from prosecution as a former head of state.

The decision by the five law lords left the way open for the former Chilean dictator and life senator to be extradited to Spain on charges of mass murder, terrorism and torture.

Their judgment was delivered to a packed House amid gasps of astonishment. By a majority of three to two the law lords decided that former heads of state can be held accountable by foreign courts for human rights abuses committed against their citizens.

In the process they took the almost unprecedented step of overturning the judgment of the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham of Cornhill, who had ruled in the High Court that the former dictator, who was 83 years

BY KIM SENGUPTA

are above the law." The lawyer Geoffrey Bindman, who represented Amnesty International and some of the general's victims, said the ruling was the "most important case in human rights law this century".

Conservative politicians, past and present, demanded that General Pinochet be freed by the Government. Baroness Thatcher, who had tea with him before his arrest, said:

"The Senator is old, frail and sick, and on compassionate grounds alone should be allowed to return to Chile. I also remain convinced that the national interests of both Chile and Britain would be best served by releasing him, which the Home Secretary has it in his power to do."

Sir Norman Fowler, the Tories' home affairs spokesman, who had asked for legal proceedings to be ended after General Pinochet's High Court victory called for a statement from Jack Straw.

He said: "Wouldn't it be right for us to be able to question the Home Secretary on the use of what everyone agrees is very wide discretion. There are many people in this country and Chile who feel this affair has gone on for long enough and that the way forward is for the Home Secretary to use his discretion and bring these proceedings to an end."

A preliminary hearing into the Spanish extradition proceedings over General Pinochet is due to be heard before Bow Street magistrates in London next Wednesday. The request from Madrid based on investigations carried out by the investigating judge, Baltasar Garzon, and backed by the Spanish government accuses the general of complicity in torture, kidnapping and murder of political opponents including Spanish citizens.

The Home Secretary has also been asked by his desk

to make any comments as he had a quasi-judicial role in the matter. The Prime Minister,

Tony Blair, who is in Northern Ireland, was told about the verdict, and said he would speak after studying it fully.

A decision by Mr Straw to release the general would be greeted with outrage by his former victims, human rights groups and most of his own backbenchers. The judgment had been greeted with surprise by MPs on the left of the

party who would normally be in sympathy with the Lords. Jeremy Corbyn, who had been leading the campaign against the general, said: "There are really no grounds for compassion. He had a very minor back operation in a private hospital. He is a man who had perpetrated crimes against humanity, and he has not shown the slightest bit of remorse."

Anita Gonzalez, who lost her husband, two sons and daughters-in-law, is hugged by her daughter Patricia Recabarren in Santiago after hearing the legal ruling EPA

and proceedings now and release the general on compassionate grounds and also on grounds of wider public interest. The Lords' decision also opens the possibility of the general being tried in this country. Britain is a signatory to the International Convention on Torture, which allows courts here to try foreign nationals accused of torture anywhere in the world.

A group of torture and rape victims of General Pinochet's secret police had asked the Attorney-General, John Morris, to prosecute him, but he had refused pending clarification on the laws of immunity by the Lords. The Home Office said last night that Mr Straw would not be making any comments as he had a quasi-judicial role in the matter. The Prime Minister,

terday, did enjoy the benefit of immunity.

The decision was greeted with elation by political prisoners of the Chilean military junta and human rights groups. There was an outpouring of anger and bitterness by the general's supporters, with anti-British demonstrations in the Chilean capital, Santiago.

Isabel Allende, daughter of Salvador Allende, the democratically elected Chilean president who died during General Pinochet's coup, said: "This is marvellous. This demonstrates that in this world principles do exist and dictators cannot travel with impunity and think they

can get away with it."

A preliminary hearing into the Spanish extradition proceedings over General Pinochet is due to be heard before Bow Street magistrates in London next Wednesday. The request from Madrid based on investigations carried out by the investigating judge, Baltasar Garzon, and backed by the Spanish government accuses the general of complicity in torture, kidnapping and murder of political opponents including Spanish citizens.

The Home Secretary has also been asked by his desk

to make any comments as he had a quasi-judicial role in the matter. The Prime Minister,

Tony Blair, who is in Northern Ireland, was told about the verdict, and said he would speak after studying it fully.

A decision by Mr Straw to release the general would be greeted with outrage by his former victims, human rights groups and most of his own backbenchers. The judgment had been greeted with surprise by MPs on the left of the party who would normally be in sympathy with the Lords. Jeremy Corbyn, who had been leading the campaign against the general, said: "There are really no grounds for compassion. He had a very minor back operation in a private hospital. He is a man who had perpetrated crimes against humanity, and he has not shown the slightest bit of remorse."

Anita Gonzalez, who lost her husband, two sons and daughters-in-law, is hugged by her daughter Patricia Recabarren in Santiago after hearing the legal ruling EPA

A group of torture and rape victims of General Pinochet's secret police had asked the Attorney-General, John Morris, to prosecute him, but he had refused pending clarification on the laws of immunity by the Lords. The Home Office said last night that Mr Straw would not be making any comments as he had a quasi-judicial role in the matter. The Prime Minister,

Tony Blair, who is in Northern Ireland, was told about the verdict, and said he would speak after studying it fully.

A decision by Mr Straw to release the general would be greeted with outrage by his former victims, human rights groups and most of his own backbenchers. The judgment had been greeted with surprise by MPs on the left of the party who would normally be in sympathy with the Lords. Jeremy Corbyn, who had been leading the campaign against the general, said: "There are really no grounds for compassion. He had a very minor back operation in a private hospital. He is a man who had perpetrated crimes against humanity, and he has not shown the slightest bit of remorse."

Anita Gonzalez, who lost her husband, two sons and daughters-in-law, is hugged by her daughter Patricia Recabarren in Santiago after hearing the legal ruling EPA

A group of torture and rape victims of General Pinochet's secret police had asked the Attorney-General, John Morris, to prosecute him, but he had refused pending clarification on the laws of immunity by the Lords. The Home Office said last night that Mr Straw would not be making any comments as he had a quasi-judicial role in the matter. The Prime Minister,

Tony Blair, who is in Northern Ireland, was told about the verdict, and said he would speak after studying it fully.

A decision by Mr Straw to release the general would be greeted with outrage by his former victims, human rights groups and most of his own backbenchers. The judgment had been greeted with surprise by MPs on the left of the party who would normally be in sympathy with the Lords. Jeremy Corbyn, who had been leading the campaign against the general, said: "There are really no grounds for compassion. He had a very minor back operation in a private hospital. He is a man who had perpetrated crimes against humanity, and he has not shown the slightest bit of remorse."

Anita Gonzalez, who lost her husband, two sons and daughters-in-law, is hugged by her daughter Patricia Recabarren in Santiago after hearing the legal ruling EPA

A group of torture and rape victims of General Pinochet's secret police had asked the Attorney-General, John Morris, to prosecute him, but he had refused pending clarification on the laws of immunity by the Lords. The Home Office said last night that Mr Straw would not be making any comments as he had a quasi-judicial role in the matter. The Prime Minister,

Tony Blair, who is in Northern Ireland, was told about the verdict, and said he would speak after studying it fully.

A decision by Mr Straw to release the general would be greeted with outrage by his former victims, human rights groups and most of his own backbenchers. The judgment had been greeted with surprise by MPs on the left of the party who would normally be in sympathy with the Lords. Jeremy Corbyn, who had been leading the campaign against the general, said: "There are really no grounds for compassion. He had a very minor back operation in a private hospital. He is a man who had perpetrated crimes against humanity, and he has not shown the slightest bit of remorse."

Anita Gonzalez, who lost her husband, two sons and daughters-in-law, is hugged by her daughter Patricia Recabarren in Santiago after hearing the legal ruling EPA

A group of torture and rape victims of General Pinochet's secret police had asked the Attorney-General, John Morris, to prosecute him, but he had refused pending clarification on the laws of immunity by the Lords. The Home Office said last night that Mr Straw would not be making any comments as he had a quasi-judicial role in the matter. The Prime Minister,

Tony Blair, who is in Northern Ireland, was told about the verdict, and said he would speak after studying it fully.

A decision by Mr Straw to release the general would be greeted with outrage by his former victims, human rights groups and most of his own backbenchers. The judgment had been greeted with surprise by MPs on the left of the party who would normally be in sympathy with the Lords. Jeremy Corbyn, who had been leading the campaign against the general, said: "There are really no grounds for compassion. He had a very minor back operation in a private hospital. He is a man who had perpetrated crimes against humanity, and he has not shown the slightest bit of remorse."

Anita Gonzalez, who lost her husband, two sons and daughters-in-law, is hugged by her daughter Patricia Recabarren in Santiago after hearing the legal ruling EPA

A group of torture and rape victims of General Pinochet's secret police had asked the Attorney-General, John Morris, to prosecute him, but he had refused pending clarification on the laws of immunity by the Lords. The Home Office said last night that Mr Straw would not be making any comments as he had a quasi-judicial role in the matter. The Prime Minister,

Tony Blair, who is in Northern Ireland, was told about the verdict, and said he would speak after studying it fully.

A decision by Mr Straw to release the general would be greeted with outrage by his former victims, human rights groups and most of his own backbenchers. The judgment had been greeted with surprise by MPs on the left of the party who would normally be in sympathy with the Lords. Jeremy Corbyn, who had been leading the campaign against the general, said: "There are really no grounds for compassion. He had a very minor back operation in a private hospital. He is a man who had perpetrated crimes against humanity, and he has not shown the slightest bit of remorse."

Anita Gonzalez, who lost her husband, two sons and daughters-in-law, is hugged by her daughter Patricia Recabarren in Santiago after hearing the legal ruling EPA

A group of torture and rape victims of General Pinochet's secret police had asked the Attorney-General, John Morris, to prosecute him, but he had refused pending clarification on the laws of immunity by the Lords. The Home Office said last night that Mr Straw would not be making any comments as he had a quasi-judicial role in the matter. The Prime Minister,

Tony Blair, who is in Northern Ireland, was told about the verdict, and said he would speak after studying it fully.

A decision by Mr Straw to release the general would be greeted with outrage by his former victims, human rights groups and most of his own backbenchers. The judgment had been greeted with surprise by MPs on the left of the party who would normally be in sympathy with the Lords. Jeremy Corbyn, who had been leading the campaign against the general, said: "There are really no grounds for compassion. He had a very minor back operation in a private hospital. He is a man who had perpetrated crimes against humanity, and he has not shown the slightest bit of remorse."

Anita Gonzalez, who lost her husband, two sons and daughters-in-law, is hugged by her daughter Patricia Recabarren in Santiago after hearing the legal ruling EPA

A group of torture and rape victims of General Pinochet's secret police had asked the Attorney-General, John Morris, to prosecute him, but he had refused pending clarification on the laws of immunity by the Lords. The Home Office said last night that Mr Straw would not be making any comments as he had a quasi-judicial role in the matter. The Prime Minister,

Tony Blair, who is in Northern Ireland, was told about the verdict, and said he would speak after studying it fully.

A decision by Mr Straw to release the general would be greeted with outrage by his former victims, human rights groups and most of his own backbenchers. The judgment had been greeted with surprise by MPs on the left of the party who would normally be in sympathy with the Lords. Jeremy Corbyn, who had been leading the campaign against the general, said: "There are really no grounds for compassion. He had a very minor back operation in a private hospital. He is a man who had perpetrated crimes against humanity, and he has not shown the slightest bit of remorse."

Anita Gonzalez, who lost her husband, two sons and daughters-in-law, is hugged by her daughter Patricia Recabarren in Santiago after hearing the legal ruling EPA

A group of torture and rape victims of General Pinochet's secret police had asked the Attorney-General, John Morris, to prosecute him, but he had refused pending clarification on the laws of immunity by the Lords. The Home Office said last night that Mr Straw would not be making any comments as he had a quasi-judicial role in the matter. The Prime Minister,

Tony Blair, who is in Northern Ireland, was told about the verdict, and said he would speak after studying it fully.

A decision by Mr Straw to release the general would be greeted with outrage by his former victims, human rights groups and most of his own backbenchers. The judgment had been greeted with surprise by MPs on the left of the party who would normally be in sympathy with the Lords. Jeremy Corbyn, who had been leading the campaign against the general, said: "There are really no grounds for compassion. He had a very minor back operation in a private hospital. He is a man who had perpetrated crimes against humanity, and he has not shown the slightest bit of remorse."

Anita Gonzalez, who lost her husband, two sons and daughters-in-law, is hugged by her daughter Patricia Recabarren in Santiago after hearing the legal ruling EPA

A group of torture and rape victims of General Pinochet's secret police had asked the Attorney-General, John Morris, to prosecute him, but he had refused pending clarification on the laws of immunity by the Lords. The Home Office said last night that Mr Straw would not be making any comments as he had a quasi-judicial role in the matter. The Prime Minister,

Tony Blair, who is in Northern Ireland, was told about the verdict, and said he would speak after studying it fully.

A decision by Mr Straw to release the general would be greeted with outrage by his former victims, human rights groups and most of his own backbenchers. The judgment had been greeted with surprise by MPs on the left of the party who would normally be in sympathy with the Lords. Jeremy Corbyn, who had been leading the campaign against the general, said: "There are really no grounds for compassion. He had a very minor back operation in a private hospital. He is a man who had perpetrated crimes against humanity, and he has not shown the slightest bit of remorse."

Anita Gonzalez, who lost her husband, two sons and daughters-in-law, is hugged by her daughter Patricia Recabarren in Santiago after hearing the legal ruling EPA

A group of torture and rape victims of General Pinochet's secret police had asked the Attorney-General, John Morris, to prosecute him, but he had refused pending clarification on the laws of immunity by the Lords. The Home Office said last night that Mr Straw would not be making any comments as he had a quasi-judicial role in the matter. The Prime Minister,

Tony Blair, who is in Northern Ireland, was told about the verdict, and said he would speak after studying it fully.

A decision by Mr Straw to release the general would be greeted with outrage by his former victims, human rights groups and most of his own backbenchers. The judgment had been greeted with surprise by MPs on the left of the party who would normally be in sympathy with the Lords. Jeremy Corbyn, who had been leading the campaign against the general, said: "There are really no grounds for compassion. He had a very minor back operation in a private hospital. He is a man who had perpetrated crimes against humanity, and he has not shown the slightest bit of remorse."

Anita Gonzalez, who lost her husband, two sons and daughters-in-law, is hugged by her daughter Patricia Recabarren in Santiago after hearing the legal ruling EPA

A group of torture and rape victims of General Pinochet's secret police had asked the Attorney-General, John Morris, to prosecute him, but he had refused pending clarification on the laws of immunity by the Lords. The Home Office said last night that Mr Straw would not be making any comments as he had a quasi-judicial role in the matter. The Prime Minister,

Tony Blair, who is in Northern Ireland, was told about the verdict, and said he would speak after studying it fully.

A decision by Mr Straw to release the general would be greeted with outrage by his former victims, human rights groups and most of his own backbenchers. The judgment had been greeted with surprise by MPs on the left of the party who would normally be in sympathy with the Lords. Jeremy Corbyn, who had been leading the campaign against the general, said: "There are really no grounds for compassion. He had a very minor back operation in a private hospital. He is a man who had perpetrated crimes against humanity, and he has not shown the slightest bit of remorse."

Anita Gonzalez, who lost her husband, two sons and daughters-in-law, is hugged by her daughter Patricia Recabarren in Santiago after hearing the legal ruling EPA

A group of torture and rape victims of General Pinochet's secret police had asked the Attorney-General, John Morris, to prosecute him, but he had refused pending clarification on the laws of immunity by the Lords. The Home Office said last night that Mr Straw would not be making any comments as he had a quasi-judicial role in the matter. The Prime Minister,

Tony Blair, who is in Northern Ireland, was told about the verdict, and said he would speak after studying it fully.

A decision by Mr Straw to release the general would be greeted with outrage by his former victims, human rights groups and most of his own backbenchers. The judgment had been greeted with surprise by MPs on the left of the party who would normally be in sympathy with the Lords. Jeremy Corbyn, who had been leading the campaign against the general, said: "There are really no grounds for compassion. He had a very minor back operation in a private hospital. He is a man who had perpetrated crimes against humanity, and he has not shown the slightest bit of remorse."

Anita Gonzalez, who lost her husband, two sons and daughters-in-law, is hugged by her daughter Patricia Recabarren in Santiago after hearing the legal ruling EPA

A group of torture and rape victims of General Pinochet's secret police had asked the Attorney-General, John Morris, to prosecute him, but he had refused pending clarification on the laws of immunity by the Lords. The Home Office said last night that Mr Straw would not be making any comments as he had a quasi-judicial role in the matter. The Prime Minister,

Tony Blair, who is in Northern Ireland, was told about the verdict, and said he would speak after studying it fully.

A decision by Mr Straw to release the general would be greeted with outrage by his former victims, human rights groups and most of his own backbenchers. The judgment had been greeted with surprise by MPs on the left of the party who would normally be in sympathy with the Lords. Jeremy Corbyn, who had been leading the campaign against the general, said: "There are really no grounds for compassion. He had a very minor back operation in a private hospital. He is a man who had perpetrated crimes against humanity, and he has not shown the slightest bit of remorse."

Anita Gonzalez, who lost her husband, two sons and daughters-in-law, is hugged by her daughter Patricia Recabarren in Santiago after hearing the legal ruling EPA

A group of torture and rape victims of General Pinochet's secret police had asked the Attorney-General, John Morris, to prosecute him, but he had refused pending clarification on the laws of immunity by the Lords. The Home Office said last night that Mr Straw would not be making any comments as he had a quasi-judicial role in the matter. The Prime Minister,

Tony Blair, who is in Northern Ireland, was told about the verdict, and said he would speak after studying it fully.

A landmark in British legal history

VERDICT

A GASP of astonishment came from the crowded gallery of the House of Lords yesterday as the fifth of the five law lords revealed his judgment in favour of the continued detention of General Pinochet.

With human rights activists and former Chilean dissidents packing the ornately gilded chamber, the lords read out their individual verdicts like boxers announcing scores in a championship fight.

When Lord Hoffmann rose to give the deciding judgment, upholding the general's arrest, the ramifications reverberated around the world.

One right-wing Chilean senator, who had been observing the hearing, left the chamber, saying: "This is very negative. It is going to do a lot of damage in my country. They are interfering in our internal affairs."

But human rights campaigners heralded the ruling as a landmark in British legal history. Britain had sent out a message that heads of state should not be considered to be above the International Convention on Torture.

A human rights lawyer, Geoffrey Robinson QC, said: "The ruling will make the torturers of the 21st century tremble. In the past, diplomats were trusted with making arrangements for torturers to leave the scenes of their crimes with amnesties in their pockets and their Swiss bank accounts intact."

Helen Bamford, director of the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture, said: "This is a milestone in the battle against those who abuse human rights with impunity. It is a signal that we are coming more to terms - both in domestic and international law - with military despots who com-

mit crimes against humanity."

The ruling may not lead to the immediate extradition of General Pinochet. The attempts to extradite the banker Lorraine Osman to face fraud charges in Hong Kong took seven years after his lawyers launched 10 unsuccessful applications for writs of habeas corpus.

Nevertheless, the ruling - which did not set a legal precedent but drew on existing human rights conventions - has major implications for Britain's international relations.

Although it is unlikely to lead to an immediate rush of prosecutions against heads of state with questionable human rights records, it is likely to make such leaders reluctant to risk visits to Britain.

After the verdict, Lord Steyn, one of the judges who upheld the appeal, said that the crimes of which General Pinochet was accused should no longer be categorised as "acts undertaken in the exercise of the functions of a head of state" than "murdering his gardener or arranging the torture of his opponents for the sheer spectacle of it".

Ann Clwyd, the Labour MP who chairs the Parliamentary Human Rights Group, said: "At last the British courts are upholding international law."

"This is an important signal to all those guilty of torture, murder and crimes against humanity: the UK will not provide a hiding place for those guilty of such crimes."

The crucial judgment was that of Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead, who declared that no one, not even a head of state, could get away with certain abhorrent crimes. "International

IAN BURRELL

Lord Lynn of Hadley

Chairman of the panel... Considered one of three liberal judges on the bench, he disappointed the anti-Pinochet campaigners by dismissing the appeal. A 68-year-old *bon vivant*, he is a member of the Garrick, Beefsteak and Athenaeum clubs. Educated at Sandbach School, Goldsmiths' College and Trinity College, Cambridge, he was called to the Bar in 1956. He became Advocate-General at the European Court of Human Justice, where he remained for 11 years. Known as a Euophile, his speciality is in complex European and commercial cases.

Lord Lloyd of Berwick

The oldest law lord at 69 and the only conservative on the panel. An Old Etonian, he also went up to Trinity College, Cambridge, where he ran the mile for the University. He is chairman of the Security Commission, the watchdog responsible for investigating complaints concerned with espionage and breaches of security. He is also overseeing the BSE inquiry. He has a relatively low profile, with only six lead judgments in the past two years. An opera-lover and former chairman of the Glyndebourne Arts Trust, he is regarded by friends as "popular and witty". He dismissed the appeal.

Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead

Middle-of-the-road politically, he cast the crucial vote which swayed the panel in favour of appeal. Educated at Birkenhead School and Liverpool University, he has a reputation for taking a highly intellectual approach, leading to criticism that he is "dry and reserved". He rose from the Chancery Bar to become a Lord Justice of Appeal in 1986. He is chairman of the Lord Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Legal Education and Conduct. Sits with Lord Hoffmann on the Hong Kong Court of Final Appeal. Another member of the Athenaeum, his interests include walking and history.

Lord Steyn

One of the two South African judges, he settled in Britain in 1973. As Johan Van Zyl Steyn QC, he was seen as an extremely successful lawyer. Progressive and outspoken, he recently attacked plans to remove the right of judges to decide which lawyers may appear before them. Now aged 66, he was educated in Cape Town and was a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University, where he attended Queen's College. The son of a solicitor, he is known as a maverick and a liberal.

Lord Hoffmann

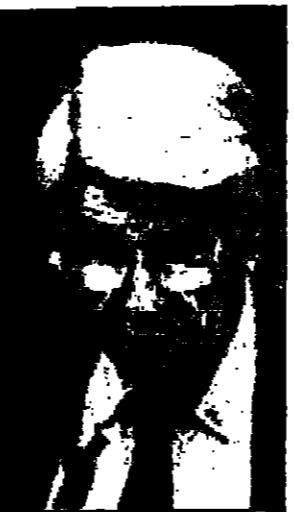
Another South African, who like Lord Steyn, grew up in Cape Town but settled in Britain after becoming a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University, where he attended Queen's College. The son of a solicitor, he is known as a maverick and a liberal.

Flamboyant and sociable, he was described by *Legal Business* magazine as "the most dominant personality in the Lords by a mile". Often able to carry other lords with him through the strength of his argument, his outgoing personality makes him popular with journalists, and he has a strong public image.

Backed the appeal.

PINOCHET RULING

THE FIVE LAW LORDS



NEXT MOVES

Straw to decide on court hearing

YESTERDAY'S judgment by the law lords brought the first round of the legal battle to a close. But the fight by General Augusto Pinochet's lawyers to save him from standing trial on charges of genocide, terrorism and torture is far from over.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, has lying on his desk extradition requests from Spain, France, Switzerland and Belgium for the former dictator of Chile.

Next Wednesday General

Pinochet is expected at Bow Street magistrates' court in London for a preliminary hearing of the request from Spain, which at present takes precedence.

It is within Mr Straw's powers to stop the proceedings at this stage. He can release General Pinochet, who is ill and 83 years old, on grounds of compassion, or on grounds of wider public interest. Most observers, however, believe that he is unlikely to do so.

If, following a full hearing

in the future, the magistrates decide to extradite Pinochet, his legal team has the right of appeal to a succession of higher courts, which can drag out proceedings for months.

There is the alternative of prosecuting General Pinochet in this country. Britain is a signatory to the International Convention on Torture, which allows courts in the UK to try an alleged torturer of whatever nationality for torture committed abroad.

A group of torture victims of the Chilean military junta had asked the Attorney General, John Morris, to bring proceedings in the UK. He has so far refused, while awaiting clarification of the law of immunity by the House of Lords.

But privately, sources in Whitehall say that the Government would far prefer a trial to take place abroad.

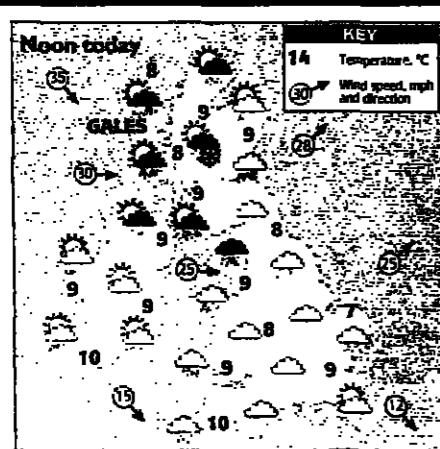
Whatever happens on that count, General Pinochet, who had described Britain as one of his favourite countries to visit, will be here for a while.

KIM SENGUPTA

'A ba

General looking

BRITAIN TODAY



LIGHTING UP

	AM	HT	PM	HT
Belfast	4.08pm	60	8.15am	
Birmingham	4.01pm	60	7.30am	
Bristol	4.00pm	60	7.47am	
Glasgow	3.54pm	60	8.16am	
London	3.59pm	60	7.38am	
Manchester	3.58pm	60	7.55am	
Newcastle	3.48pm	60	8.00am	

HIGH TIDES

	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	11.15	10.8	11.43	10.5
Cork	10.38	10.8	11.30	10.5
Dover	2.52	5.9	3.21	5.7
Dun Laoghaire	4.14	5.4	4.23	3.6
Falmouth	9.01	4.7	9.31	4.4
Greenock	4.36	3.1	4.51	3.3
Hartlepool	3.42	2.9	3.59	3.1
Holyhead	2.32	4.7	2.07	4.9
Hull (Albert Docks)	10.36	7.4	10.49	7.5
Kings Lynn	10.41	5.3	10.54	5.0
Lisbon	7.42	7.4	7.42	7.4
Liverpool	3.10	2.9	3.39	3.1
Millbay Haven	5.07	5.8	5.07	5.5
Newquay	9.24	5.9	9.55	5.6
Porthcawl	10.46	1.7	11.34	1.5
Potternewton	3.32	4.2	3.32	4.1
Rosslare	3.22	2.7	3.27	2.6
Scarborough	8.36	4.9	8.48	5.0
Sheerness	3.39	2.9	3.50	3.1

	NO ₂	SO ₂	Good
S England	Mod	Mod	Good
Wales	Good	Mod	Mod
N England	Mod	Mod	Good
Scotland	Good	Mod	Good
N Ireland	Good	Mod	Good

SUN & MOON

	Sun rises	Sun sets	Moon rises	Moon sets
	07.36	15.59	22.46	03.06
				First Quarter: Nov 27

OUTLOOK

General situation Scotland and Northern Ireland: the weather will be dry with early morning, with sheet over the Highlands. Northern England and Wales will be cloudy with patches of rain, and some hill-fog. West Wales and south Wales will be dry and bright. The Midlands may see some light rain at times. Southern England will be dry throughout, although it should stay dry.

East & SE England, London, Cheltenham, Bristol, Gloucester, Wiltshire, etc: Scattered, with early sunshine, but clouding over. A light north-westerly wind. Max temp 9-11C (46-54F).

SW England, N Wales: Scattered, starting bright, but increasingly cloudy with some patches of rain. A light westerly wind, will be dry elsewhere. A

SW England, W Wales: Mostly cloudy with hill and coastal drizzle. A light west-north-west wind. Max temp 9-12C (48-54F).

North East England, E Yorkshire, Cumbria, N England, Lakes, Isle of Man: Mostly cloudy with spells of rain, turning heavy on the hills. A freshening, generally west-westerly wind. Max temp 9-10C (46-50F).

NIreland: Early heavy rain will clear, but there will still be some sharp showers, especially along the western wind. Max temp 9-12C (48-54F).

SW Scotland, Glasgow, etc: Heavy rain this morning clearing to bright spells and sharp showers with some on the hills. Max temp 9-11C (46-54F).

SE & NE Scotland, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, N Islay: Heavy rain becoming confined to the Northern Isles as it turns drier and brighter elsewhere. A

SW England, W Wales: Mostly cloudy with more in the way of cloud and scattered showers.

General situation Scotland and Northern Ireland: the weather will be dry with early morning, with sheet over the Highlands. Northern England and Wales will be cloudy with patches of rain, and some hill-fog. West Wales and south Wales will be dry and bright. The Midlands may see some light rain at times. Southern England will be dry throughout, although it should stay dry.

East & SE England, London, Cheltenham, Bristol, Gloucester, Wiltshire, etc: Scattered, with early sunshine, but clouding over. A light north-westerly wind. Max temp 9-11C (46-54F).

SW England, N Wales: Scattered, starting bright, but increasingly cloudy with some patches of rain. A light westerly wind, will be dry elsewhere. A

SW England, W Wales: Mostly cloudy with hill and coastal drizzle. A light west-north-west wind. Max temp 9-12C (48-54F).

North East England, E Yorkshire, Cumbria, N England, Lakes, Isle of Man: Mostly cloudy with spells of rain, turning heavy on the hills. A freshening, generally west-westerly wind. Max temp 9-10C (46-50F).

NIreland: Early heavy rain will clear, but there will still be some sharp showers, especially along the western wind. Max temp 9-12C (46-54F).

SW Scotland, Glasgow, etc: Heavy rain this morning clearing to bright spells and sharp showers with some on the hills. Max temp 9-11C (46-54F).

SE & NE Scotland, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, N Islay: Heavy rain becoming confined to the Northern Isles as it turns drier and brighter elsewhere. A

SW England, W Wales: Mostly cloudy with more in the way of cloud and scattered showers.

General situation Scotland and Northern Ireland: the weather will be dry with early morning, with sheet over the Highlands. Northern England and Wales will be cloudy with patches of rain, and some hill-fog. West Wales and south Wales will be dry and bright. The Midlands may see some light rain at times. Southern England will be dry throughout, although it should stay dry.

East & SE England, London, Cheltenham, Bristol, Gloucester, Wiltshire, etc: Scattered, with early sunshine, but clouding over. A light north-westerly wind. Max temp 9-11C (46-54F).

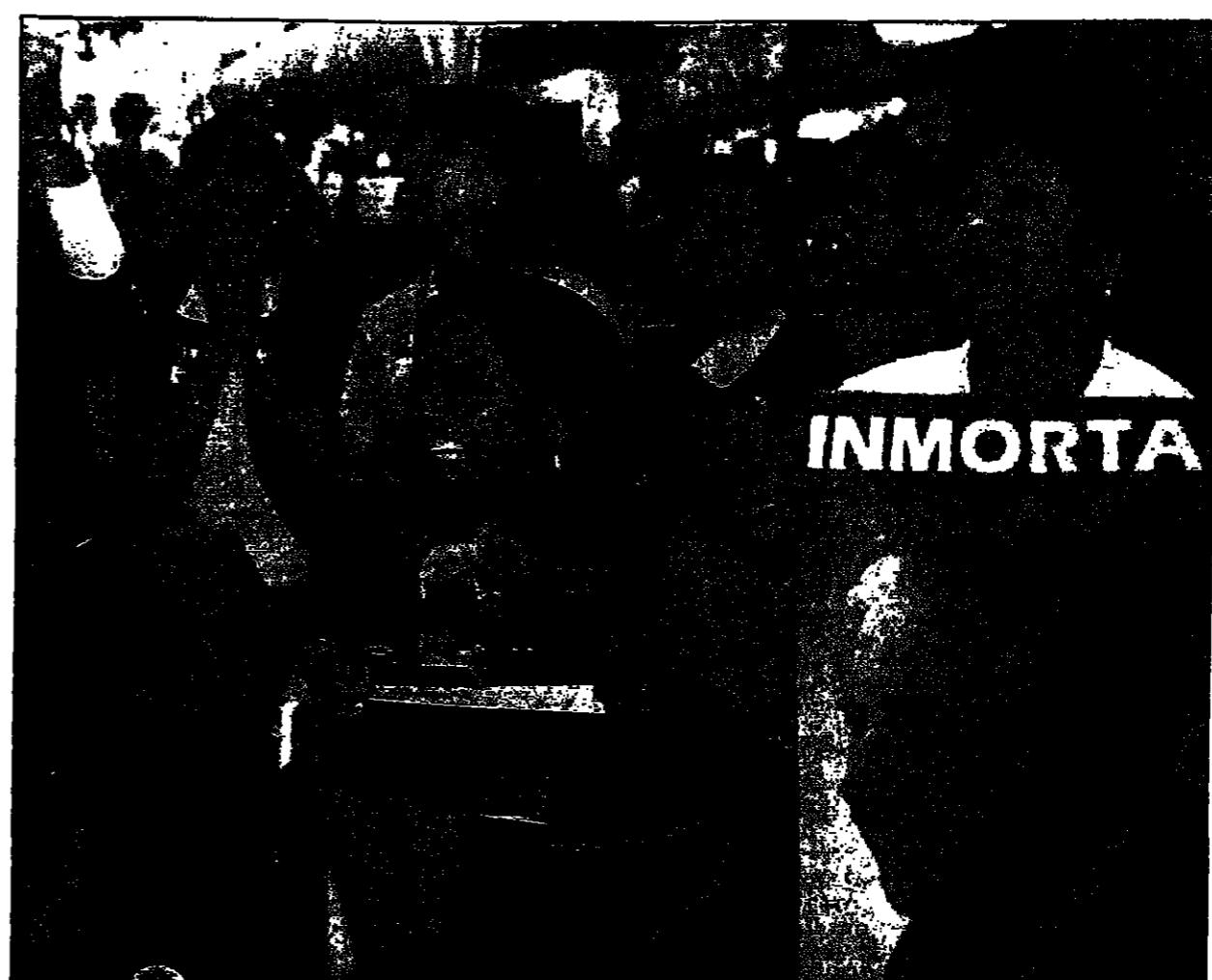


Toffmann
Sir Alan Steyn, who
grew up in South Africa,
settled in London after
becoming a Scholar at Oxford
University, where he attended
Oxford's College. The son of
a teacher and a liberal,
loyalist and sociable, he
is described by Legal
magazine as "the
dominant personality in
the world". Often
carries other lords with
the strength of argument,
his outgoing
nature makes him
popular with journalists.
He has a strong public image
and a good appeal.



Opponents of General Augusto Pinochet outside the north London clinic (left) where he has been treated, and supporters in Santiago, Chile (right) react to the decision yesterday by the law lords

Reuter



INMORTA

'A bad day for world dictators'

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

OUTSIDE THE Grovelands Priory Hospital in north London the campaigners had been singing their protest songs all morning, but shortly after 2pm they fell silent. Seventy or more heads all pushed towards the live broadcast from a handheld radio as the five law lords gave their decision.

In the centre of the scrum was Isabel Allende, daughter of the democratic Chilean president ousted by General Pinochet in 1973, said it had been a "marvellous" decision. Around her the crowds scornfully chanted "Happy Birthday, General!" [Gen Pinochet was 83 yesterday.]

In France, MPs applauded and the Prime Minister, Lionel Jospin, said: "This is a surprise, a joy, bad news for dictators." The Swiss said they would be continuing their request for Gen Pinochet's extradition, following proceedings

in Spain. In Chile itself there was a celebration at the Santiago-based headquarters of the Association of Families of the Disappeared. Women hugged and wept as they released thousands of white balloons to commemorate the victims. One of the group's leaders, Viviana Diaz, said: "We feel our missing family members in our hearts. We believe justice has started for them. Today was an important step, a triumph for human rights. It tells heads of state they can not kill or torture."

But celebration was not the only story. With a passion equal to that of his opponents, supporters of Gen Pinochet, including Baroness Thatcher ("The senator is old, frail and sick, and on compassionate grounds alone should be allowed to return to Chile," she said), said Britain was wrong,

REACTION

In Santiago the British and Spanish embassies stepped up security against crowds of Pinochetists, who attacked journalists outside the Pinochet Foundation. They also threatened to march on the villa used by the British ambassador, Glynn Evans, in Las Condes district, although she and her staff are believed to have moved to a safer location.

Gen Pinochet's son, also called Augusto, said the decision was a "cruel and sadistic blow that goes beyond the rights of Mankind".

The Chilean President, Eduardo Frei, was expected to announce he would press the government's case to set Gen Pinochet free for humanitarian reasons and to prevent further

polarisation and disturbances. But behind both the celebrations and voices of protest, there was little doubt the importance of the decision by the law lords. Most Chileans accepted that, whatever one's views on the rights or wrongs

of the decision, the implications were dramatic. In effect, the weasel words about diplomatic immunity for heads of state have been overturned by Britain's highest court, overruling what a group of almost equally senior bewigged figures decided less than a month ago. The implications of the decision are manifold.

First, there are the obvious implications for Gen Pinochet. Spain is not the only country wishing to bring him to trial. The Swedish Prime Minister, Goran Persson, has said he should stand trial. A Belgian judge said suits filed by Chilean-born Belgians were admissible. Switzerland asked for extradition in connection with the disappearance of a Swiss citizen. Italian magistrates have opened an investigation into

Gen Pinochet over complicity in murder.

If the news is bad for Gen Pinochet, the implications for others who have committed political crimes are even worse. The law lords' decision is not a technical precedent for anywhere except the United Kingdom. None the less, the applause on all sides of the French parliament yesterday when the news was announced is a reminder of the cultural sea-change in recent years, traceable back to the end of the Cold War. In the old days, superpowers backed their respective tyrants, a view reflected in the US phrase, with reference to a Latin American dictator: "He's a son of a bitch — but at least he's our son of a bitch."

Now, some might argue, morality provides its own justification for taking action. The fledgling International Criminal Court, whose creation was half-blocked by the United States this year, is intended to make it possible to prosecute those who have committed crimes against humanity anywhere in the world.

While the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, could reject the extradition request from the Spanish judge Baltasar Garzon, for the moment Chilean democrats and their supporters are celebrating. In the words of Sheila Cassidy — stripped, tortured and held in solitary confinement in 1975 — "It's a great moment for England and for Chile. I feel proud to be English today."

Additional reporting by Steve

Crookshank, Liz Nash in Madrid and Phil Davies, Latin America Correspondent

LIFESTYLE

General 'ready to fight' and looking for house in country

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

GENERAL PINOCHET remained last night at the Grovelands Priory Hospital in Southgate, north London, where he has stayed, on police bail, for the past few weeks.

Supporters of the former dictator insisted that he was sick and frail. But just how ill was impossible to say.

An ambulance had been on hand to transport the General to an Chilean Air Force jet waiting for him at RAF Brize Norton, in Oxfordshire, had the law lords decided in his favour. As it was, the ambulance left the hospital without him.

The Chilean authorities were yesterday refusing to disclose the General's health. "I'm sorry that is something we are simply not allowed to talk about," said a spokesman at the embassy in London.

General Pinochet's lawyers, Kingsley Napley, also failed to respond to inquiries about their client's health. And the hospital said the embassy was dealing with the issue.



But the General was certainly well enough to receive visitors yesterday. Throughout the day, a number of visitors — believed to be London-based Chilean officials — arrived at the hospital. During the morning his daughter Lucia arrived to visit her father on his birthday.

Yesterday, it was reported

that the General's friends were now looking for a house for him to rent in the countryside while the extradition proceedings — which could drag on for months — go ahead.

General Pinochet came to London, one of his favourite cities, for surgery for his back. He had been recovering at the London Clinic — another private hospital — when he was detained by British authorities from the Metropolitan Police at the request of the Spanish authorities.

He was kept under armed guard at the hospital in central London — with police patrolling the pavements outside to keep watch on demonstrators who gathered there — until 28 October when the High Court refused the Spanish extradition request. At this point he transferred to the Grovelands.

General Pinochet had originally flown into Britain at the beginning of October, taking in a visit to Madame Tussaud's and Fortnum & Mason. He also paid a visit to his old ally Baroness Thatcher, with whom

he had a friendly meeting.

THE STORY SO FAR

22 September: General Pinochet is welcomed by the Foreign Office after a flight from Chile in which he has back problems.

30 September: Told he needs surgery on his back.

5 October: Has drinks with Baroness Thatcher.

9 October: Undergoes back surgery at the London Clinic, near Harley Street.

14 October: Madrid Magistrates' Court contacts the Metropolitan Police about Pinochet's presence in Britain.

16 October: He is arrested shortly before midnight after magistrates at Bow Street, London, issue a provisional arrest warrant

under the Extradition Act 1989. Two Spanish judges requested Pinochet's detention on murder charge.

17 October: Scotland Yard announces arrest. The Spanish warrant alleges that between September 1973 and December 1983, Pinochet murdered Spanish citizens in Chile.

18 October: Peter Mandelson, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, rejects suggestion that the arrest might violate rules of diplomatic immunity.

19 October: Pinochet issues a statement vowing to fight extradition.

20 October: Human rights groups ask police to investigate allegations against Pinochet with a view to prosecuting him in Britain under the 1988 Criminal Justice Act.

21 October: Tony Blair denies that Britain is acting for political reasons.

22 October: Pinochet's lawyers seek judicial review of his detention. An emergency hearing at the High Court is adjourned.

27 October: Britons told not to travel to Chile.

28 October: Pinochet wins his High Court battle against his arrest and detention. But he remains under arrest pending determination of any appeal against this decision.

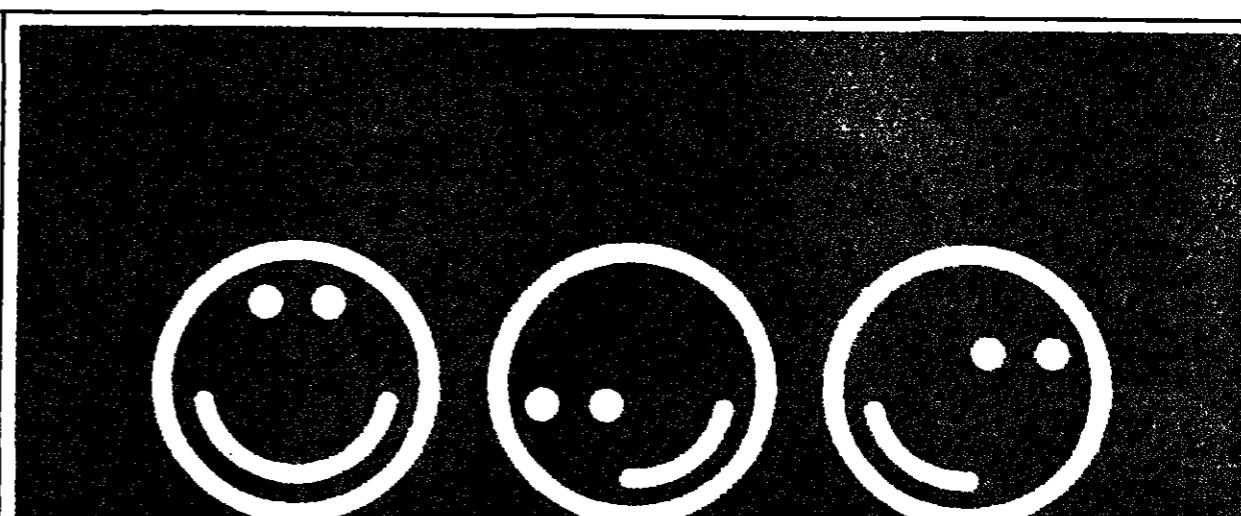
29 October: Pinochet moves to Grovelands Priory Hospital, in north London.

4 November: Law lords appeal opens. Alun Jones QC, for the CPS and Spanish authorities say that Pinochet must be denied sovereign immunity because he was not head of state at various junctures when he allegedly committed "savage and barbarous crimes".

7 November: Pinochet issues statement: "A show trial in a foreign land is not justice. It is certainly not British justice."

25 November: Law lords rule that Pinochet is not immune from arrest.

LINUS GREGORIADS



0800 400 454

TNT





Phillip Schofield with Oriane Cole, 3; the star of 'Doctor Dolittle' met 30 children with tuberous sclerosis at the Hammersmith Apollo, to launch a £5m appeal on behalf of the Tuberous Sclerosis Association Andrew Buurman

Labour imposes gag on members

BY ANDREW GRICE
Political Editor

THE LABOUR leadership is to bring in controversial new rules to limit the rights of party members to influence the Government's policy. The clampdown, revealed in Labour documents leaked to *The Independent*, provoked new allegations last night that Tony Blair is guilty of "control freakery".

Moderates as well as left-wingers accused Mr Blair of renegeing on his promise to give party members a bigger say over government policy. They claim the new rules will give cabinet ministers a veto over the fine detail of all party policy decisions and allow the party little input into the programme on which Labour will fight the next general election.

Under Mr Blair's plans to modernise Labour, he set up a 175-member National Policy Forum to involve the grassroots in policy-making. Final decisions remain with the party's annual conference, its sovereign body.

A row will break out when the forum discusses the rules under which it will operate at its meeting at Labour's Millbank headquarters in London on Saturday. Mr Blair will be accused of "neutering" the new body by "fixing" its recommendations to the conference.

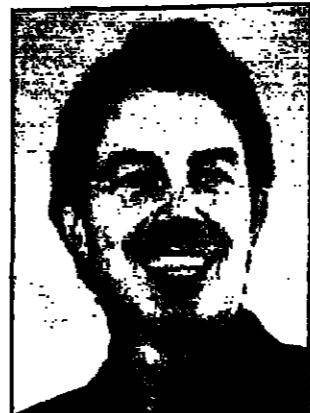
The move will be seen as a further attempt by Mr Blair to stamp out dissent inside the party, which will approve policy statements next autumn on health, welfare, crime and justice.

Some MPs normally loyal to Mr Blair are worried that his desire to control the party machine will backfire as he drives moderate activists into the arms of his left-wing critics.

One opponent of the proposed rules said: "Grassroots people right across the party spectrum are increasingly worried about the control freakery. Mr Blair should listen to them, instead of shooting the messenger and branding anyone who criticises him an extreme left-winger."

One senior party figure admitted: "The structure of the new system is good, but there is now growing cynicism amongst ordinary members that they will have any real say."

The agenda for Saturday's meeting reveals that party officials want to curb the power of forum members to change draft reports before they are sent to the conference. The officials recommend that pro-



Blair: Faces accusations of 'neutering' new forum

posed amendments will not be accepted unless they reflect "a significant strand" of party opinion.

The party's Joint Policy Committee, chaired by Mr Blair, will play a key role in deciding the final wording of the policy statements to be put to the annual conference. Officials want forum members proposing "non-endorsed amendments" to meet ministers and consider proposals by

members and consider proposals by

Mr Blair's committee "to make amendments acceptable."

When the new system was set up last year, the leadership promised the forum would be allowed to submit "minority

reports" to the conference when there were significant differences among its members. This was a concession to left-wingers, who feared the forum would endorse policy statements backed by the leadership, which the conference would not be able to amend.

However, officials are now proposing strict limits on the forum's ability to produce such alternative reports. They will require support from one-third of the forum members taking part in a vote, including backing among three of the seven groups represented on the forum - constituency parties, trade unions, regions, MPAs, Euro MPs and councillors, socialist societies, the Government and the National Executive Committee (NEC).

Critics will protest at Saturday's meeting that this could mean the constituency parties unanimously agreed a policy proposal - such as a call for a rise in old age pensions - but could not get it on the conference agenda.

Labour sources insisted the new system was more democratic and would give ordinary members an input into policy-making. "This year has seen unprecedented involvement of members," one official said.

Cystitis drug may help to prevent CJD

BY STEVE CONNOR
Science Editor

GOVERNMENT HEALTH officials are investigating the possibility that a drug used in America to treat a form of cystitis can prevent people developing the human form of "mad cow" disease.

Scientists working on sheep scrapie, a similar brain disorder to bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), demonstrated in the 1980s that the drug pentosan polysulphate can delay or avert the onset of the disease.

Because pentosan polysulphate is already in use in America, it has undergone the extensive toxicity trials that all new drugs have to pass and so would pose few practical problems for licensing in Britain.

Although the scrapie research on pentosan polysulphate was abandoned more than 10 years ago, scientists believe the work should be revitalised to investigate whether the drug might be used to help people at high risk of developing new variant Creutzfeldt Jakob disease (vCJD), the human form of BSE.

Chris Bostock, the director of the Institute of Animal Health, said he had applied for funds from the government to research the drug, which was first investigated by the institute's Neuropathogenesis Unit in Edinburgh.

The problem is that pentosan polysulphate cannot be given to humans as a CJD prophylactic unless it is proven to work and it is impossible to prove it will work unless it is tried," Dr Dealer said.

Alan Dickinson, the institute's former director who carried out the work with his colleague Christine Farquhar, said pentosan polysulphate "should be taken seriously" as

Arts Council

Our Faster
With FREE Print

£12 Monthly
Interest Free
Credit and Not a
Fee to pay until
November 1999

At Time we make
all the PCs we sell
and we sell no other

366

IN BRIEF

Museums 'short of space'

ONLY 3 per cent of Britain's museums have enough storage space and most do not employ conservation specialists, the first comprehensive report on the state of museums showed yesterday. More than two out of three museums lacked a disaster plan to protect and rescue collections if there was an emergency, according to the report, *Museum Focus*.

Babies injured in hospital

AN INVESTIGATION that began in July after a 10-day-old baby boy was found with a broken leg in hospital has revealed that two other infants suffered injuries in the same neonatal unit at the Princess Alexandra Hospital in Harlow, Essex.

Consumers complaining more

CONSUMERS ARE more likely than ever to complain about goods and services thanks to a "watchdog culture", says research from the Henley Centre. They found that 56 per cent of people had complained in the past year. That was up on the 37 per cent who complained previously.

Mars rejects mouse charge

THE CONFECTIONERY firm Mars denied a breach of food regulations after a woman in London found part of a mouse in a Topic bar. Horseferry Road magistrates were told the rodent was imported in Turkish nuts for which Mars could not be held responsible. The case was adjourned.

STUCK FOR CHRISTMAS INSPIRATION? **COMET** BEST BUYS FOR CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS

A WIDE RANGE OF PRE-PAY MOBILES MAKES GETTING MOBILE EASY

Pre-pay mobile phones have no bills, no credit check and no minimum term contract. To use the phone you simply buy airtime vouchers to pay as you go.

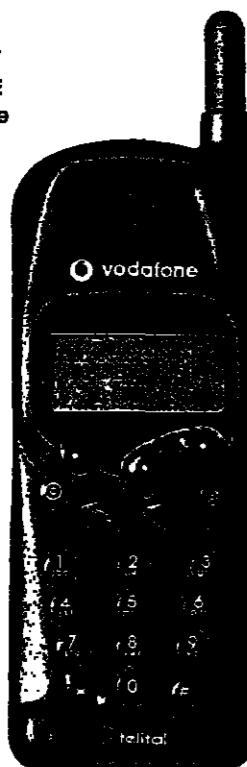
Vodafone

PRE-PAY MOBILE PHONE

- Up to 90 minutes talktime battery strength
- Up to 18 hours standby time battery strength
- 90 number memory

Model PAY AS YOU TALK TELITAL PV129 was £79.99 previously £99.99 INCLUDES FIRST £15 TOP UP*

SAVE £40
£59.99



one 2 one ▶

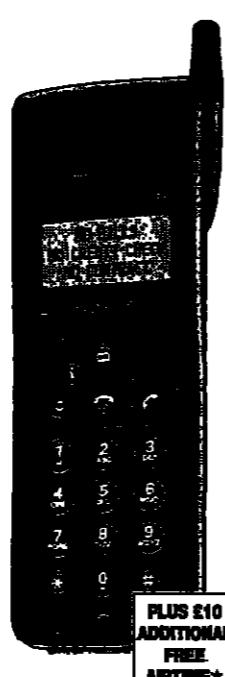
PRE-PAY DIGITAL MOBILE PHONE

- Up to 240 minutes talktime
- Up to 60 hours standby time
- Up to 99 memories for storing frequently used numbers
- Free voicemail service

Model UP 2 YOU SIEMENS S6 was £99.99 In-store £79.99 INCLUDES FIRST £10 AIRTIME VOUCHER*

SAVE £30
£69.99

To remain connected a minimum of £20 must be credited to your account every 90 days. see



SAMSUNG
DIGITAL CORDLESS TELEPHONE

- Exceptional sound and speech quality
- Up to 300 metres outdoor range
- Liquid Crystal Display
- 10 number memory
- Last number redial

Model SPRS100

£99.99

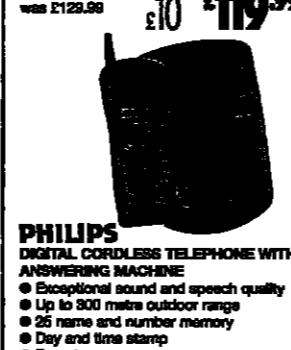


BT
CORDLESS TELEPHONE

- Automatic selection
- Up to 200 metres outdoor range
- 10 number memory
- Last number redial

Model FREESTYLE 80 PLUS

SAVE £10
£49.99



Southwestern Bell
DIGITAL CORDLESS TELEPHONE WITH DIGITAL ANSWERING MACHINE

- Exceptional sound and speech quality
- Up to 300 metres outdoor range
- 5 channel automatic selection
- 10 number memory
- Day and time stamp
- Last number redial

Model DIVERSE 2010

SAVE £10
£119.99



PHILIPS
DIGITAL CORDLESS TELEPHONE WITH ANSWERING MACHINE

- Exceptional sound and speech quality
- Up to 300 metres outdoor range
- 25 name and number memory
- Day and time stamp
- Wall mountable

Model XALO 6800

SAVE £31
£168.99



MINICALL
TEXT PAGER

- 16 message capacity
- 100 character messages
- Build-in clock and alarm
- Model TEXT 1000S, was £24.99 previously £25.99 FREE HEADLINE SAVE £1.00 FREE LOTTERY RESULTS

£20
£39.99

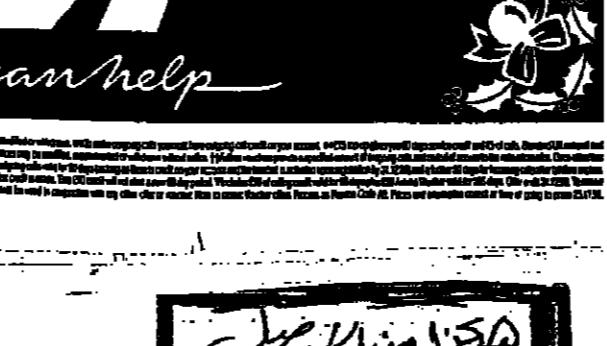


BT
EASYREACH TEXT PAGER

- 83 message capacity
- 50 character messages
- Backlit 2 line display
- Time stamped messages

Model 7471, was £79.99 FREE HEADLINE SAVE £1.00 FREE LOTTERY RESULTS

£10
£69.99



MOTOROLA
DIGITAL MOBILE PHONE

- Up to 250 minutes talktime
- Up to 75 hours standby time
- 90 number memory
- Supports caller ID

Model JUST TALK MOTOROLA MR201 was £99.99 previously £119.99 In-store £79.99 INCLUDES FIRST 30 MINUTES TALKTIME*

SAVE £50
£69.99

VOUCHERS AVAILABLE FROM ONLY £5*

For local store details
see Teletext Ch4 p425
or phone free on
0500 425 425
or visit our web site at:
www.comet.co.uk

COMET
We're positive we can help

ers

Fury at boss's attack on fat employees

BY DARIUS SANAI

STAFF AT Granada were baffled yesterday after a declaration by a senior executive that the group does not employ fat people because they are "slovenly and slothful".

While anti-fatist campaigners condemned the supposed policy, staff members said they were bewildered by the managing director's words.

A couple of well-built waitresses at Granada's Woolley Edge service station in West Yorkshire, standing behind trays of sticky Danish pastries, scones and jams and salads heavy with mayonnaise, said they had not encountered any sexism and had never been aware of any company policy on the issue.

The furor broke out when Gordon Towell, managing director of a division of the Granada entertainment and leisure group, said he had a radio phone-in earlier this week that "we do not employ very fat people" because "they do take more time off work and they tend to have a more slovenly, slothful attitude".

His comments unleashed a furious reaction yesterday from those trying to combat discrimination against overweight people, both in the workplace and across a society obsessed with being thin while simultaneously becoming fatter.



Gordon Towell: said fat are 'slovenly and slothful'

Mr Towell backpedalled furiously, saying the comments, made on a Radio 5 Live talk show, were "a joke". He attributed them to his "quirky sense of humour" and added it was "a complete non-issue how heavy people are". Unfortunately, the views expressed are so familiar to many that they did not sound like a joke at all.

Andrew Hill, a psychologist at Leeds Medical School, said the remarks were typical of the most commonly held prejudices against fat people. "There is no evidence whatsoever to support these views," Mr Hill said. "There is a wide social stigmatisation of fat people, held from childhood, that has nothing to do with job performance. When you have a culture that prizes thinness you find any deviation from that is

discriminated against." The issue is likely to become an increasing concern in the workforce. In 1980, 7 per cent of the British population was clinically obese. Last year, the figure was up to 18 per cent and rising, the increase widely attributed to a more sedentary lifestyle and an abundance of unhealthy food.

Helen Jackson, an employment barrister and founder of the Sizewise Campaign, an anti-discrimination group, called yesterday for a public boycott of any organisation that discriminates against fat people.

"Someone in a personnel department told me once being fat was considered the next worst thing to having a criminal record," she said. "Only with legislation to protect fat people from discrimination, as there is for women and ethnic minorities, can we start to change society's views."

The final grounds for discrimination – that fat people are more likely to become ill – was challenged by Dr John Wilding, an obesity specialist at Aintree hospital, Liverpool.

Dr Wilding said heavy drinkers and smokers were as likely to suffer from sickness as the overweight and the idea that very fat people were to blame for their condition was "fallacy".

Obesity was due to many factors, most of them outside the patient's immediate control.



Gerry Robinson, head of Granada, the company at the heart of the 'fattist row', and of the Arts Council, where he has encouraged staff to use a counselling service

arts" to the conference attendees among its members. This was a concession to anti-fatists, who feared the group would endorse policies backed by the left wing, which the conference did not appear to amend. However, officials are now posing strict limits on the group's ability to produce alternative reports. They will submit a report from one-third of the forum members taking part in a vote, including half of the seven groups represented on the forum – constituency parties, trade unions, regions, MPs, local councillors, arts societies, the National Executive Committee (NEC). Critics will protest at Saturday's meeting that this could mean the constituency parties unanimously agreed a policy proposal – such as a call for a 10 per cent cut in old age pensions – but did not get it on the conference agenda.

Labour sources insisted the system was more democratic and would give ordinary members an input into policy making. "This has seen unprecedented involvement by members," one official said.

drug p to CJD

By STEVE CONNOR
Science Editor

possible anti-CJD treatment

In 1984, two independent teams of researchers showed experiments on mice that had been injected with scrapie prion protein (a poly-sulphated protein) to prevent the onset of disease in animals. Dr Bessen and Dr Caughey found, however, that this does not mean the same effects will occur in humans because of differences in the genetics of mice and because the doses used on the mice were relatively large.

Stephen Dealler, a scientist from Burnley Hospital who was involved in the experiments, said: "The new drug and there was evidence that raloxifene (a polyphosphate salt) is an anti-CJD agent at much lower doses than those used in our experiments."

He said the dose of 100 milligrams a day given to American patients to treat meningitis was 100 times greater than the amount that we have an effect against CJD.

"The problem is that prion protein (a polyphosphate salt) cannot be given to humans as a CJD phytolytic unless it is pure enough and it is impossible to prove it will work unless it is tried," Dr Dealler said.

People at highest risk of CJD – such as the children whose parents developed the disease or people who received blood transfusions – could be offered the drug with informed consent, he said.

RIFF

I space' means we have enough capacity to supply conservation projects. We're reporting on the state of the art from two out of three major providers and rescue agencies, according to the

hospital

In July after a 10-day stay in hospital, the 10-year-old boy suffered injuries in the area of Alexandra Hospital

learning more

than ever to complete his rehabilitation, cultural and creative. They found that skills in the past year. That was claimed previously

he charge

and student found part of his life in the last year. Magistrates were told that he was adjudicated

Arts Council offers therapy to its stressed-out staff

DEPRESSED? Frustrated? Unsure of your sexual identity? Perhaps you work for the Arts Council.

Help is at hand for the bureaucrats who find spending £400m a year on the UK's theatres, operas and concert halls too stressful and sexually confusing. The Arts Council is urging staff to use a confidential counselling service, for ad-

BY DAVID LISTER
Arts News Editor

vice on drugs, alcohol and sexual problems, as well as problems caused by redundancy – paid for out of that £400m.

The advice has been approved by the council's chairman, Gerry Robinson, who is also chairman of Granada plc.

It also has the blessing of the council itself, whose members include the Royal Ballet dancer Deborah Bull and the pianist Joanna MacGregor.

Mr Robinson has announced that he wants to reduce the staff from 320 to 150. The ensuing stress, combined presumably with the stress of preparing to announce the annual round of grants, will

disappoint and infuriate many arts organisations, has apparently left them on the edge.

One former Arts Council member said yesterday: "It's absolutely astounding that taxpayers' money is being used for this. I know that working in the arts is increasingly stressful. But in my day at the council, if you had a problem, you went to the secretary-general and dis-

cussed it. Now you have to go to a private counsellor or therapist."

A letter to every member of staff from the council's human resources department tells them that a company called Core Care, a professional counselling organisation, can help them with "problems related to work, career, personal or emotional, financial or legal, marital

or family, alcohol or drugs, sexual or stress".

The company's brochure, headed Core Care, confidential counselling working on behalf of the Arts Council of England, talks of dealing with workers who may be "distracted or preoccupied; operate at a lower performance level than usual ... show poor attendance or timekeeping".

THE BEST WRITING IS IN 'THE INDEPENDENT' EVERY WEEK:

DEBORAH ROSS, SUE ARNOLD,
HOWARD JACOBSON, MARK STEEL,
HAMISH MCRAE, ROBERT FISK,
JOHN WALSH, RICHARD WILLIAMS,
DAVID AARONOVITCH,
ANNE MCELVOY, THOMAS SUTCLIFFE,
MILES KINGTON

Our Fastest 3D Home PC with FREE Printer and Scanner!

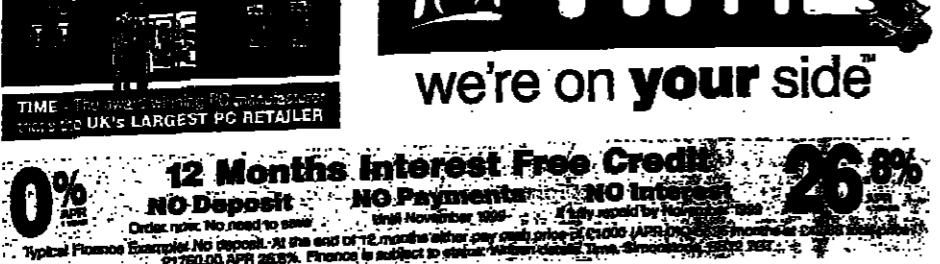
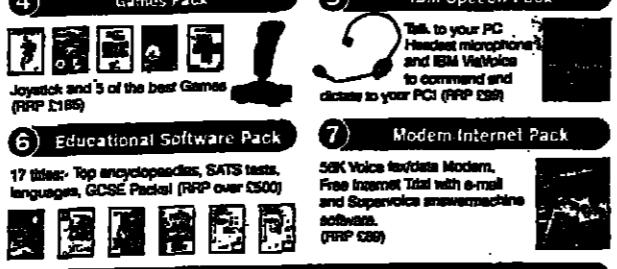
Just look at this unbeatable high end, total PC package with all these 8 items included.

Powerful 366MHz 3D computer that's faster than our 400-2 PC, printer, scanner and more for just £1098 + VAT.

At Time we make all the PCs we sell. And we sell no other make.

Because we design and build our PCs in the UK, we can guarantee the very latest PC technology, such as speech recognition and the highest specifications like those listed here. And because we use no middlemen to sell our PCs, we can offer you the very best price. That's the beauty of selling direct.

Visit your local Time store this week. A deal like this simply can't last long.



12 Months Interest Free Credit
NO Payments for 12 Months
Order now. No need to pay now.
Typical Finance APR 19.9% FCA
£1000.00 over 36 months. Finance is subject to status and credit approval.

0% APR
12 Months Interest Free Credit
NO Payments for 12 Months
Order now. No need to pay now.
Typical Finance APR 19.9% FCA
£1000.00 over 36 months. Finance is subject to status and credit approval.

£1098.00 + VAT
£1290.15 inc VAT

All 8 items for just £1098 + VAT

Offer extended to 2nd December

Offer ends 2nd December
Offer ends 2nd December

Mother is questioned as girl recovers from 28-hour ordeal

CHARLOTTE JONES, the three-year-old girl discovered in woodland 28 hours after going missing was recovering in hospital yesterday as doctors marvelled at how she had survived her ordeal.

She sat up in bed at Warrington General Hospital in Cheshire and opened presents from local police who had feared the worst. She appeared to be back to her "bubbly" self, playing and chatting with the nurses.

Dr Nick Wild, clinical director of child health for Warrington Hospital NHS Trust, was surprised by Charlotte's resilience.

He said the fact that the little girl had spent the night in the woods, where ground temperatures do not drop quite as low as in exposed areas, may have helped her to survive "what was a potentially life-threatening episode".

She was reported missing by her mother, Michelle, at 6pm on Monday. Ms Jones, 24, a stu-

dent, told police that she had last seen her daughter at 5.15pm as they waved goodbye to a social worker at the gate to their house.

Police arrested Ms Jones shortly after they found Charlotte at 9.30pm on Tuesday. Last night, she remained in custody at Warrington police station, where detectives were still questioning her.

Warrington Borough Council is legally responsible for Charlotte's care. A spokesman said the council was working closely with her family and others to reach "the very best short-term decision - a decision that is right for Charlotte".

About 50 officers were involved in the search for Charlotte, which covered the area around her home, nearby waterways and buildings on open land.

As darkness fell on Tuesday night the prospects of finding her alive were reducing. Janet

Critchley, 29, a police child protection officer, described how the fog was coming down and she and her colleague, Detective Constable Mark Toker, were preparing for a long night when she heard a child's whispers.

They fought their way through dense undergrowth in Gypsy Wood, three miles from Charlotte's home and found her crying and shivering as she sat in the middle of a patch of brambles.

"She was wet and there were no signs of any food," said Constable Critchley, adding that she thought Charlotte had been in the same position for a long time.

"She was upset and distressed and looked very happy to see us ... She just wanted to be picked up and my colleague wrapped her in his coat."

Charlotte was taken to the nearby home of Bill Ashcroft, 61. He said: "I was in the kitchen and I heard the CID man shout 'Bill, Bill'.

"I ran through and he was on the telephone and the little girl was on his knee ... she was hugging him. She was very quiet and her eyes were watery. She looked really scared."

Constable Critchley, who visited Charlotte in hospital yesterday, said that "she was very clingy with her family".

She added: "I gave her a Po teletubby, gave her a hug and she was smiling."

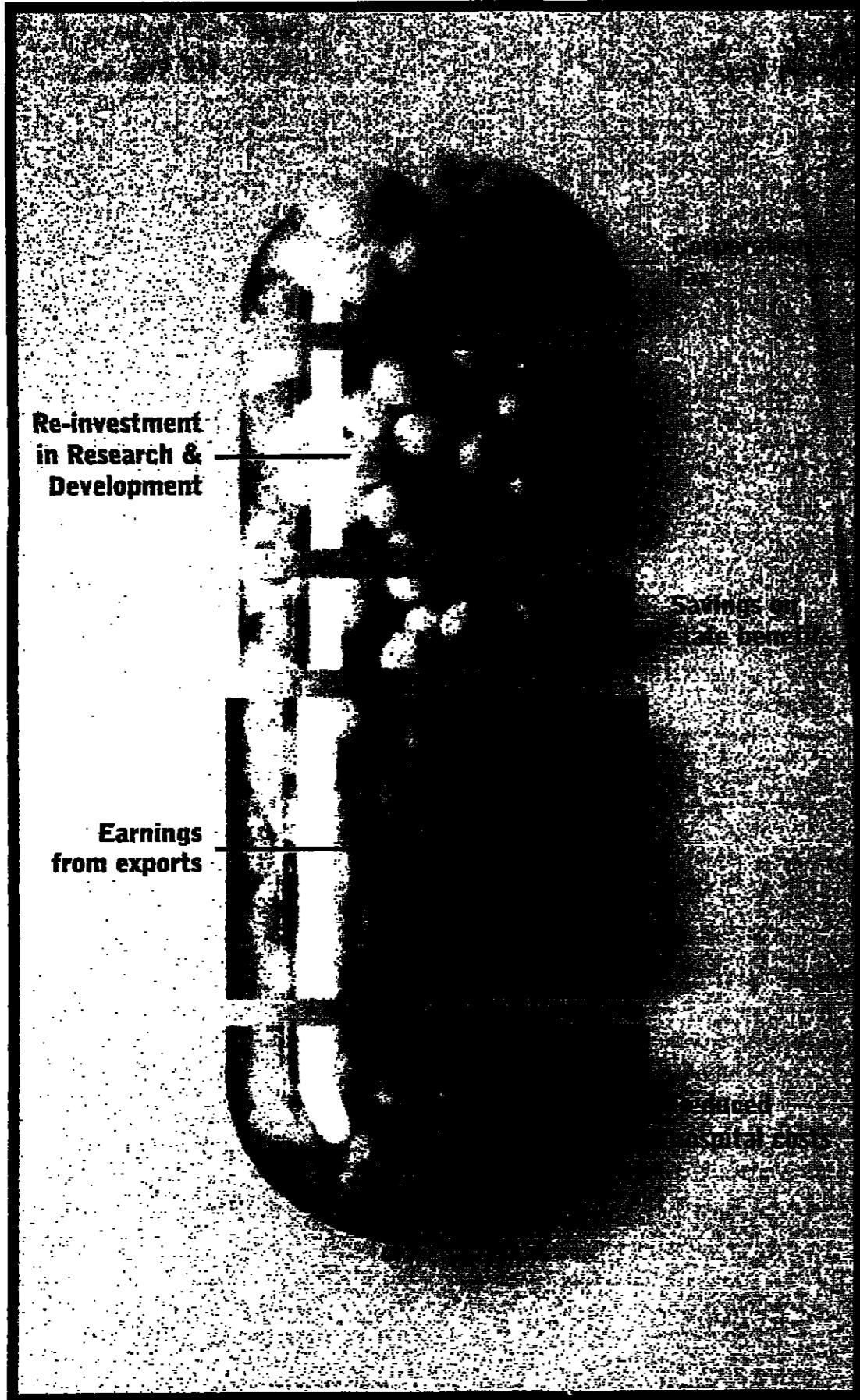
Charlotte has a large number of scratches and abrasions to her face, hands, legs and feet in addition to "cold injuries" to her hands and feet. "They have been exposed. I think she must have taken her shoes and socks off," Dr Wild said.

He added that it was difficult to speculate on any long-term psychological damage Charlotte may have suffered, but said that if she had enjoyed a relatively trauma-free life he imagined she would get over the incident in the "goodness of time".



Three-year-old Charlotte Jones, who went missing from her Warrington home on Monday night, recovering in hospital yesterday with Constable Janet Critchley (standing), who found her, and her aunt, Yvonne Jones

Sickness Benefit.



This year, the National Health Service will spend £6 billion on medicines - about 25 pence per person per day.

In return, the pharmaceutical industry will re-invest some 20% of its annual turnover in the search for new and improved medicines.

This investment will benefit the National Health Service by helping to reduce hospital admissions and saving over £10 billion a year on patient care.

The value of medicines goes far beyond supporting the NHS. The pharmaceutical industry provides employment for more than 300,000 people and exports over £5 billion of medicines a year, producing one of the country's largest trade surpluses of £2 billion.

Over the past five years pharmaceutical companies have committed over £2 billion in capital investment, and more is planned.

The benefit of the industry is also felt within the Treasury as pharmaceutical companies in Britain pay hundreds of millions of pounds in Corporation Tax each year.

But perhaps the industry is least known for its investment in education, funding half of all post-graduate training for GPs and supporting universities to the tune of £100 million a year.

If all this good work is not encouraged, it wouldn't just be the industry that would fall sick. It would be the country.

The Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry
12 Whitehall London SW1A 2DY



TAKE CARE OF AN INDUSTRY THAT TAKES CARE OF BRITAIN

Strains show in peace process

BY DAVID MCKITTRICK
Ireland Correspondent

indeed over these coming days."

Mr Trimble and the Sinn Fein president, Gerry Adams, meanwhile exchanged attacks during the day. The Unionist leader saying society had invested too much in the process "to allow it to be destroyed by a handful of unreconstructed militarists in the republican movement". Mr Adams, in turn, accused Unionists of attempting to exercise a veto, and of "childish tactics, childish antics and blatant stalling tactics".

Earlier, Mr Mallon had warned that unless real progress was made very soon "then the potential for this whole experiment to crack up is much greater than people realise". Unless there was movement, the process would be in great danger of losing credibility, he added.

Mr Trimble's response was to declare: "It is not helpful to generate a sense of crisis where none exists. Nor is it helpful to try to generate artificial deadlines when there aren't deadlines in the process." The Unionist leader later added, in what appeared to be an attempt to soothe things down, that periodic disagreements between himself and Mr Mallon were only to be expected.

Les Rodgers, chairman of the Northern Ireland Police Federation, said Mr Blair had been shocked and taken aback by the plight of police families.

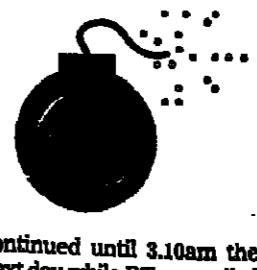
He added: "I think he had his eyes opened. I don't think he realised to what depth people would go to intimidate officers and their families - blast bombs and petrol bombs thrown at houses, thugs gathering outside houses, all while the men were away at Drumcree."

MILLENNIUM BUG WATCH

TAKING ACTION against the millennium bug can sometimes create more problems than it appears to solve. Just ask the staff at John Radcliffe Hospital, one of the biggest in Oxford, which recently upgraded the software which controls its 2,300-line switchboard to cope with the year 2000.

When the software was installed, the system collapsed, leaving only 69 extensions working. In a desperate scramble, lines were reallocated; two for Accident & Emergency, and one each for every other ward. Other hospitals were put on alert to receive emergency admissions.

The problems, which began on the Sunday morning,



continued until 3.10am the next day, while BT was called in to set up an emergency switchboard.

When engineers tried to get to the root of the trouble, they found that it was not the software that was faulty after all. The process of installing the software had triggered a hidden problem in the printed circuit boards holding the hardware that made up the switchboard.

CHARLES ARTHUR

Redwood hotly denies holding talks with bathroom sponge

WHAT GENIUS of melodrama arranged for the announcement of the law lords' ruling on General Pinochet's appeal? Surely serendipity alone could not have marshalled the occasion so perfectly, first of all ensuring the verdict would arrive on the old villain's birthday, then procuring the perfect sequence for the individual judgments to be read out. In dramatic terms the hearing has been rather like the kind of experimental theatre favoured by German directors of a sadistic bent - a celebration of enigma in which old atrocities mingled surreally with the picking of legal nits. In the early days, though, the subject

matter alone guaranteed that it was something of a hot ticket, with various celebrity politicians turning up to listen, staying for just long enough to realise that they had not the faintest idea what any of it meant, and then departing for something a little more vaudeville. *Koranagh QC* it wasn't. The main body of the audience, whether they were the clique of Pinochistas in cashmere and silk or the rather more coarsely fibrous group of protesters, were doggedly attentive, but even they couldn't pretend it was easy stuff to sit through.

The denouement couldn't have been more different. Imagine the

THE SKETCH



THOMAS
SUTCLIFFE

ly to grief, commiseration to congratulation. Hardly surprising that the Commons couldn't match it

for drama, although it wasn't exactly a dull day in the House. It was Mr Mandelson's turn to speak in the debate on the Queen's Speech and he began with an effective sting, attributing to Mr Redwood a disobligeing remark about Mr Hague, to the effect that he had had "more interesting conversations with a bathroom sponge". Mr Redwood went puce and leapt to his feet to deny that any such words had ever passed his lips. He held the right honourable sponge in the highest regard. He went even puerer when reminded of his view that the Conservatives had considered all the leadership candidates and elected

the worst. Never said it, protested Mr Redwood, but his denial had the sort of hot-faced fluster that confirms suspicions rather than dispels them. "What a way to speak of your leader," confirmed Mr Mandelson. "We wouldn't get away with it in our party. The men in the dark would never allow it."

It didn't all go Mr Mandelson's way, though. John Bercow, the Tories' bouncing bomb, celebrated his naming as Backbencher of the Year by repeatedly leaping to his feet to ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry to give way. Mr Mandelson declined. This wasn't a good idea. Mr Bercow relishes a

challenge and began to ask at ever-decreasing intervals, occasionally letting his frustrated zeal issue as little yelps of condemnation. "You're useless!" he shouted. "You're frit!" Mr Mandelson punished him by taking interventions from everybody else with increasingly sarcastic courtesy. Had David Blunkett's dog been in the chamber she would have stood a better chance of getting Mr Mandelson to sit down, but Mr Bercow didn't give up. It took him far too long, but Mr Mandelson finally realised that if you have a thorn in your heel it is usually best to put your feet up for a while and let it work itself out.

Worker rights likely to be watered down

GOVERNMENT PLANS to increase trade union rights in the workplace are likely to be watered down to meet employers' concerns, Peter Mandelson hinted yesterday.

The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry told Labour MPs during a debate on the Queen's Speech that he was "willing to give reassurance" to employers anxious about the impact of the Fairness at Work Bill on their businesses.

"We want to ensure that the proposals work well and strike a fair balance and, yes, to give reassurance, where this is justified, to employers who are understandably concerned about the impact of this legislation on their businesses," he said.

Under pressure from the Confederation of British Industry, the Downing Street Policy Unit has urged that workers should be members of a union for at least 12 months before they are counted towards recognition.

Unions believe they have successfully resisted the idea of a two-tier membership, but they may have lost the battle to

TRADE UNIONS
BY SARAH SCHAEFER

scrap the upper limit on the amount of compensation for unfair dismissal. The present ceiling of £12,000 is likely to be increased to £20,000 or £30,000.

As part of the drive to make Britain the best environment to trade electronically, Mr Mandelson announced the appointment of a "high-ranking digital envoy" who would ensure that businesses and consumers take "maximum advantage" of the Internet.

"This person will speak for the UK in the international area to promote the UK as a global hub for electronic commerce, business and investment, and to drive forward the cross-government strategy for electronic commerce," he said.

Mr Mandelson pledged that "if and when" Britain joined the European single currency there should be more "artificial convergence". But John Redwood, the Conservative spokesman on trade, accused him of failing to mention job losses, or the crisis in manufac-

turing industry, because all ministers were interested in was "abolishing hereditary peers". People out there are not clamouring for reform of the House of Lords. They are demanding more jobs, better schools, better hospitals and this Queen's Speech does absolutely nothing to stop the collapse in manufacturing which we see going on day by day," he said.

John Major, the former Conservative prime minister, reflected on Britain's entry into the European single currency, and said: "Tony Blair used to accuse me of sitting on the fence when it came to setting out a clear policy, he is now sitting on the adjacent spike."

■ David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education and Employment, was rebuked by the Speaker, Betty Boothroyd, for saying he would not be present for the debate. But he changed his plans after Miss Boothroyd said it was her "personal feeling" that Mr Blunkett should be present unless he was dealing with a matter of the "utmost urgency" elsewhere".



Tory leader William Hague celebrating at the Savoy in London yesterday after being voted Parliamentarian of the Year by a panel of political journalists Neville Elder

'Sharks feed on inventors'

TECHNOLOGY
BY PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

CORPORATE "SHARKS", expensive patenting and a narrow education system are crippling Britain's finest inventors, a group of leading entrepreneurs told MPs yesterday.

Trevor Baylis, the inventor of the clockwork radio, David Potter, chairman of Psiion plc, and the computer pioneer Sir Clive Sinclair told the Commons science and technology committee that business costs meant that home-grown ideas were often developed abroad.

Mr Baylis said more state aid was vital to maintain the British tradition of lone inventors. "My problem was that when I first had my idea, I had no help with preparing a business plan,

patenting or even the astronomical cost of translation of patents. Without that help, how can a fellow protect himself from predators?"

Mr Potter, whose company now employs 1,300 staff thanks to the success of its personal organiser, said Britain suffered from a "cultural" problem with applied science that contrasted sharply with the US belief in "the dignity of practical knowledge".

Sir Clive said it was appalling that 50 per cent of all new products originated as British ideas but were developed overseas.

THE HOUSE

UN condemned

GEORGE GALLOWAY, the Labour MP for Glasgow Kelvin, stunned MPs when he condemned the United Nations for causing a "quiet massacre" in Iraq through sanctions. Dismissing challenges to explain what the West should do against Saddam Hussein, the MP spoke of the "little echoes of Tel Aviv in the chamber". He added: "A walk through the vale of tears that is Iraq is almost too much for the ordinary mortal to bear. So

searing is the grief, so traumatised are the population, so enraged are the people with whom we say we have no quarrel."

Tourism fears

THE GOVERNMENT shows "precious little concern" for the tourism industry and has turned guest houses in seaside resorts into over-spill DSS hostels for asylum seekers, Nigel Waterson, the Tory MP for Eastbourne said, accusing Labour of delaying a tourism strategy.

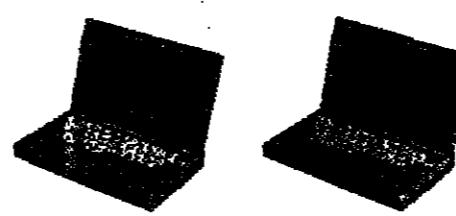
Another 3 great savings from Argos and Braun.



Christmas shopping made easy.

* Suggested retail price

The Intel Inside logo and Pentium are trademarks of Intel Corporation



The Libretto 100CT and 110CT are the smallest and lightest mini-notebook PCs in the world.

And they start at just £1295* without VAT or £1521.63* with VAT.

Quantity

Phone
Birmingham
0121 236 4
Leeds:
0113 244 5

CLEAR & SIMPLE OFFERS FROM TOSHIBA

For more information call your Toshiba Authorised Reseller or call Toshiba on 01932 828 828 or visit our website at www.toshiba.co.uk/computers

1000150

DRYWALLS

Emergency Clearance Mahogany "Lit Bateau"



Quantity 180 for clearance
Bordeaux bed

Why pay £1400

Now Only

£495

WE
WILL
SELL
OUT

Quantity 140 for clearance
Toulouse bed

Phone now for details 0171 631 3498

Birmingham:
0121 236 4880

Bristol:
0117 929 0773

Cardiff:
01222 666691

Edinburgh:
0131 221 1776

Exeter:
01392 276114

Leeds:
0113 244 5655

Manchester:
0161 236 9008

Newcastle:
0191 260 2422

Norwich:
01603 664494

Southampton:
01703 634331

The Wrought Iron Bed Factory, 25 Goodge Street,
London W1 (off Tottenham Court Road)
30 day money back guarantee

Nationwide deliveries available

BBC vows to banish old sitcoms

TITTER YE NOT - the BBC is no longer amused by the sight of trousers falling down in front of a vicar. Comedies that rely on "suburban sofas and knitted pullovers" are to be banished from the screen.

Peter Salmon, the controller of BBC1, announced a new £30m investment in situation comedy yesterday, but promised to update a genre he admitted had been a weakness in recent years. "There are two things the public currently seem to like more than anything else," Mr Salmon told the Broadcasting Press Guild. "One is watching sitcoms, the other is saying how terrible they are."

"I am the net-curtain comedy killer," added Mr Salmon. "The man who took out a contract on suburban sofas, knitted

pullovers, and will finally do for some of those dreary 1950s scenarios that have infected too many British comedies."

Mr Salmon said the channel was looking for comedies that "owed more to Coronation Street and The Simpsons than to Ealing comedies and Carry On films".

He did not name the comedies that would be scrapped. But types of show like *Next of Kin*, where Penelope Keith played a reluctant grandmother, and *A Prince Among Men*, a comedy about social-climbing starring Chris Barrie, had had their day, he said. Both shows have ended. Mr Salmon pointed to the new Victoria



Shows such as 'Next of Kin', starring William Gaunt and Penelope Keith, are thought to be too old-fashioned

Wood show, *Dinner Ladies*, which attracted an audience of 11 million when it began last week, as an example of a new wave of sitcoms planned for the channel.

The £30m is a 50 per cent in-

crease on last year and there are a large number of new projects in the pipeline. After making *The Royle Family* for BBC2, Caroline Aherne is returning as Mrs Merton, in a show called *Mrs Merton and Malcolm*. It will be set in her Stockport home rather than

showing her interacting with a studio audience.

There is to be a new historical comedy called *Let Them Eat Cake*, set in pre-revolutionary France, starring Dawn French and Jennifer Saunders. *The Alan*

Davies Show, on Radio 4, is transferring to television.

Mark Addy, one of the stars of *The Full Monty*, is making the BBC's first American-based sitcom. In *Too Much Sun* he will play a debauched British actor in Hollywood.

BY PAUL McCANN
Media Editor

A MAN with Legionnaire's disease who was left for hours in a blood-soaked bed waiting to be transferred to intensive care suffered an 'unacceptable' delay in his treatment, the Health Service Ombudsman said yesterday.

The man, who had difficulty breathing and was in distress, needed a ventilation tube inserted before being transferred but had to wait six hours to be seen by an anaesthetist at Warrington General Hospital. His drip became dislodged and was not replaced for two hours, leaving him with bloodstained pyjamas and bedding. Abnormal test results, showing the oxygen level in his blood was low, were not acted on. He died two weeks later.

However, Mr Buckley criticised the hospital for failing to ensure there was direct communication between the medical and anaesthetic staff in such an emergency. Even if an earlier transfer would not have saved Mr B's life, it "would at least have meant that he was more comfortable and received sooner the level of care that he needed".

In separate cases, the ombudsman also criticised two GPs for striking patients off their lists unreasonably or precipitately. In a case in Scotland



Buckley: Investigation

a GP struck off a patient who had complained when he was given a prescription for a painkiller instead of the antibiotics that he had requested for a bout of flu. Mr Buckley did not criticise the GP's decision to withhold antibiotics but said he had acted in the heat of the moment in striking off the patient.

In the second case, a GP in Yorkshire struck off the parents of a woman who had removed herself from the list of a partner after a disagreement. The parents had been on their GP's list for many years without difficulty.

GPs have the legal right to strike patients off their list without giving a reason but Mr Buckley said in the particular circumstances of the two cases the GPs' actions were unreasonable and contravened the principles of good practice.

We'll do the
rescuing
while you do
the saving.

AA	£126
RAC	£136
DIRECT LINE	£38*



Buy your car insurance from us and you'll get a whole lot more than you bargained for. Because you'll save 50% on the price of Direct Line Rescue, the most modern breakdown service in the UK.

CALL 0181 253 8118.

www.directline.com

*Direct Line's price is an average price. Prices correct as of 1/1/98. Comparison is on a like for like basis. Offer available in Accessory Plus for comprehensive motor policy holders. Direct Line, Direct Line Insurance and the red telephone on wheels are trademarks of Direct Line Insurance plc. The company may monitor or record telephone conversations with the aim of improving its service.

Hospital neglected dying patient

BY JEREMY LAWRENCE
Health Editor

nothing it could have done differently in the circumstances and that Mr B's death could not have been avoided.

The man, who had difficulty breathing and was in distress, needed a ventilation tube inserted before being transferred but had to wait six hours to be seen by an anaesthetist at Warrington General Hospital. His drip became dislodged and was not replaced for two hours, leaving him with bloodstained pyjamas and bedding. Abnormal test results, showing the oxygen level in his blood was low, were not acted on. He died two weeks later.

The case is among the first involving clinical judgement to be investigated by the ombudsman, Michael Buckley, whose powers were extended to include clinical matters in 1996. It highlights the extreme pressures on the NHS and the lottery faced by patients when there are not enough staff to care for all those who require immediate attention.

The man, Mr B, was admitted to hospital on 28 November 1996 and was visited by his family the following day. At 5.45pm a doctor told his wife, Mrs B, that he was in a critical condition and would have to be transferred to the intensive care unit of a neighbouring hospital. The doctor added that the following six hours would be crucial.

By this time Mr B had pneumonia, his breathing was laboured and he was becoming increasingly distressed. His two sons had to restrain him from removing his oxygen mask. Before he could be transferred he needed a tube inserted into his lungs so that he could be ventilated on the journey but no anaesthetist was available to carry this out until 11.45pm.

Mr Buckley did not criticise the anaesthetists involved in the case because the three who were on duty at Warrington hospital at the time were fully stretched attending to other very ill patients.

The hospital admitted the care provided was "sub-optimal" but said there was

DEBENHAMS

GOLD Plus VALUES

Free set of
Christmas lights
when you buy any
Christmas tree

20% off
partywear
Debut, J Taylor, Anne Brooks,
'J' by Jasper Conran,
Hyphen, 'BDL' by Ben de Lisi
'G' by Maria Grachvogel,
Pearce II Fionda

20% off coats

Nuage,
Pearce II Fionda.
'J' by Jasper Conran
J Taylor
Anne Brooks

Exclusive cosmetics
gift sets

e.g. Calvin Klein Eternity for women
30ml Eau de parfum spray,
75ml body lotion, 75ml shower gel

Only £27

Based on the RRP per item for buying the products at current price.

Look out for many more Gold Plus tickets throughout the store for even better Winter Values.

DEBENHAMS
BRITAIN'S FAVOURITE DEPARTMENT STORE

Most offers available in all Debenhams stores including Browns of Chester. Stock subject to availability. Debenhams Retail plc, a member of the Debenhams plc Group of Companies. Registered in England, Company No: 83395. Registered office: 1 Welbeck Street, London W1A 1DF. www.debenhams.com

Debenham's
100th Anniversary

2 Nation turns increasingly to drink

BY GLENDA COOPER
Social Affairs Correspondent

BRITONS ARE spending 40 per cent more on alcohol than they did 30 years ago, with wine and spirits becoming increasingly popular tipplers, according to a new survey.

Drinking wine on foreign holidays, seeing a drink as a "cheap treat" and less public disapproval of women drinking are likely to be reasons behind the change in spending patterns.

The Government's latest annual Family Spending Survey into "who's spending, how much, on what and where" shows that we are also changing what we drink as well as how much we consume.

While traditional beers and ciders still outsell wines and spirits, expenditure on them rose by only a quarter in real terms, while spending on wines and spirits increased by three-quarters in 30 years. The biggest rise in alcohol spending was in the 1970s and 1980s.

The poorest fifth of the population accounted for the biggest rise in alcohol spending, up 80 per cent, whereas for the richest fifth it rose by 35 per cent. "There is no obvious reason why spending on alcohol should have increased so much," said Denis Down, the report's editor.

"Probably it is down to increased incomes, but also changes in fashion. People are also getting used to wine on foreign holidays. It may also be seen as one of the cheaper luxuries, particularly for those on lower incomes. And it could be that drinking is now more acceptable amongst women than it used to be."

The largest rise in spending

THE NATION'S SPENDING

- The average household spend is £329 a week.
- Household spending ranges from £96 to £720 between the poorest and richest families.
- Spending on housing has risen from 9 per cent to 16 per cent of total expenditure.
- Households spend on average £56 a week on food and £55 on leisure.
- Tobacco has fallen from 6 per cent to 2 per cent of total spending.
- Spending on alcohol has risen by 40 per cent over the past 30 years.
- More than 70 per cent say that they gamble, compared with 55 per cent in 1994-95.
- Spending on tea and coffee has doubled in the past 30 years, but by 1997-98 was spent on coffee than on tea.
- Spending in the South-east is more than £60 above the UK average.
- Households in Wales and the North-east buy the fewest toiletries.

overall has been in housing, thanks not only to the growing numbers of those buying their own home, but the increasing passion for home improvement. As a percentage of total spending it is up from 9 per cent of total expenditure in 1968 to 16 per cent today, accounting for £51.50 per week.

While nearly all of the spend is due to rent, mortgage, council tax and water bills, 15 per cent is spent on maintenance, repairs and decorations. "Obviously part of the growth in proportion is the

increased number of mortgages," Mr Down said. "But the rise also includes DIY and we know that owner-occupiers are spending a lot on maintaining their houses."

Mr Down said the gap between rich and poor remains as wide as ever, with the richest spending 60 per cent more than they did 30 years ago compared to a rise in spending of only 13 per cent by the worst off.

The average weekly expenditure of households in the United Kingdom was £229, £20 up on last year. But spending varies from an average of £96 for the worst tenth of households compared with £720 for the highest tenth.

Long parents are among the worst off, Mr Down said. Families headed by one parent spent about £200 a week - half of what families with two or more adults spent.

Thirty years ago food was by far the biggest drain on expenditure. But with the growth of the leisure society, Britons now spend only 80p a week more on essential nourishment than leisure goods and services.

The nation's love affair with consumer durables continues with most people now seeing them as a necessity. More than 90 per cent of all households now own a washing machine, more than 99 per cent have a refrigerator and 94 per cent own a telephone. Ownership of videos and CD players also continues to increase.

Spending on tobacco saw a "striking" decrease among the richest, from £18.50 a week to £6, as health messages started to take effect.

Family Spending 1997-98, is published by the Stationery Office; price £39.50



Richard Avedon's famous fashion photograph of 'Dovima with Elephants' which goes on display today as part of the 'Silver and Syrup' exhibition at London's Victoria and Albert Museum

Inquest to rule on gold bounty

BY JANE HUGHES

IT IS the stuff treasure hunters' dreams are made of. Nigel Wilding and his father-in-law, John Sutton, were scouring a beach in East Yorkshire when, they claim, they discovered a rare gold sword pommel thought to be worth hundreds of thousands of pounds.

While Mr Sutton swept the beach with his £500 hi-tech metal detector, Mr Wilding chanced upon the pommel using his father-in-law's spare, a second-hand children's detector bought at a car boot sale.

Indeed it was only a twist of fate that saw 25-year-old Mr Wilding pick up the detector at all. He had earlier been fishing but gave up after failing to catch anything. The men, both from the Hull area, say they found the early 7th-century Saxon pommel, believed to have belonged to a king, inside a clay boulder near Aldbrough last November. At first they thought it was part of a cigarette lighter.

A treasure trove inquest is being held in Hull to investigate the circumstances of the find and determine ownership.

Craig Barclay, acting senior curator of the Yorkshire Museum in York, said the pommel, which is less than 5in long, has a bronze centre with 81 per cent gold filigree sheeting over it. "It is undoubtedly of national importance," he added.

The inquest was due to be heard earlier this year but was adjourned for further inquiries after a letter arrived, expressing concerns about the time and location of the find. There were then several challenges to the men's claims about where the pommel was found, including one from the Centre for Wetland Archaeology.

Under the 1996 Treasure Act, a reward may be paid to the finder, the occupier of the land where it was found and anyone with an interest in the land.

The inquest continues today.

Brent Spar break-up begins

THE LAST act of the Brent Spar saga began yesterday when Shell, owner of the giant oil-storage buoy, began to dismantle it in a Norwegian fjord.

It was the company's final retreat from plans to sink the 14,500-tonne rig in the Atlantic, which the Greenpeace environmental pressure group defeated in a blaze of world-wide publicity in 1995.

Yesterday, one of the world's largest floating cranes began removing the 1,600-tonne topside and the control and accommodation superstructure,

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY
Environment Correspondent

which will be scrapped. The tubular hull of the Spar will then be cut into metal rings, which will be filled with ballast and used to form a ferry quay at Mekjarvik, near Stavanger.

Shell's land-based disposal of the rig will take a year and cost £45m, compared with the £4.5m bill for dumping it in the ocean.

Greenpeace saw that plan as a test case of how all maritime oil rigs should be disposed of and deployed its skill at eye-

catching protest to fight it, occupying the Spar from helicopters and boats. Protests escalated and Shell faced with an international boycott of its petrol stations abandoned its plan.

Its change of heart embarrassed John Major, then prime minister, who had sided with Shell.

The rig has been moored in deep Norwegian fjords for the past three years, and is now in Yrkjefjord, north of Stavanger. In July the oil-exploring countries of the North Sea and

North Atlantic, including Britain, agreed that all oil platforms in the sea would be brought ashore for disposal, except the largest. Britain's agreement will cost the UK oil industry £5bn.

Chris Rose, Greenpeace's programme director, said yesterday: "The real significance of the campaign was that one of the largest companies in the world had to change its plan very publicly because it did not fit with the values of its customers and of the public."

Psion Series 5 palmtop £399.95



Psion Series 3mx palmtop £229.95

Information.

The most valuable asset you can carry with you.

Keep it safe.

Keep it Psion.

PSION
Working with you. Everywhere.

For a brochure call
0990 200 520

www.psion.com

I count on my Psion.

When I simply mustn't forget

Agenda with alarms

When I think faster than I write

Voice memo recorder

When I bump into someone interesting

Address book and database

When one memory simply isn't enough

Memory backup

When I'm 35,000 feet up in the air

E-mail manager

THE NATIONAL NETWORK: WHICH COMPANIES ARE GETTING THERE AND WHICH ARE SHOWING THE STRAIN?

Anglia	CARDIFF RAILWAY COMPANY LIMITED Valley Lines	CENTRAL TRAINS	Chiltern Railways	connex south central	connex south eastern	CrossCountry Trains	GATWICK EXPRESS
Runs fast trains to East Anglia. Punctuality fell in all seven route groups with an average of 85 per cent late running. Overall, it failed under the Passengers' Charter. Recently raised the standards in its charter, offering better compensation and higher service standards.	Serving south Welsh valleys. A bad offender in the recent figures, with late running rising from 6 per cent to almost 13 per cent, fares, discounts, while reliability slipped. Recent heavy flooding is likely to lead to a worsening in figures.	Sprawling West Midlands commuter network. Last week revised the routes on the line to regularise them, after a 15-year absence of punctuality. Most recent figures show improving timekeeping and reliability.	Commuter services to London, from northern Home Counties to Sussex Coast. Was refused permission to extend its franchise to 15 years in return for chasing out-of-scheme stock - to the delight of passenger groups. Improved performance across all route groups.	Commuter services to Surrey and Kent and Sussex. New Network train problems. Under franchise commitment to phase out all slam-door stock, its Kent Link group is the weakest and triggered discounts for delays.	Spawning network of InterCity trains. Liable to delays at many pinch points on the network. Also blames weather conditions, inherited the majority of the older InterCity stock on privatisation. Latest performance triggered passenger discounts.	Ferries business travellers and holidaymakers between London and the airport. Cynics say airports don't run this route well. For trains in 1,000 are cancelled, and punctuality is improving. Has ordered new trains.	
■ Parent: GB Railways; route miles: 348; passenger journeys: 5.9 million	■ Parent: Prism; route miles: 86; passenger journeys: 6.1 million	■ Parent: National Express; route miles: 1,495; passenger journeys: 32.4 million	■ Parent: M40 Trains; route miles: 163; passenger journeys: 8.8 million	■ Parent: Generale des Eaux route miles: 481; passenger journeys: 117.2 million	■ Parent: Virgin; route miles: 1,657; passenger journeys: 12.5 million	■ Parent: National Express; route miles: 27; passenger journeys: 3.7 million	
Great Eastern	GNER	Great Western	LTS Rail	Midland Mainline	north western trains	Spirit	
Runs commuter services to Essex and Suffolk. Disastrous performance last winter - at one stage, only 60 per cent of its services ran to schedule. One in ten trains are late and five trains in 1,000 are cancelled.	Inherited best train and most recently upgraded lines. Improved reliability recently but one in 10 trains are late. Has put in a bid to have its franchise extended in exchange for investment including 12 new tilting trains.	Erased tag of Late Western because of initial problems. Blamed lack of performance on the franchise. Arriva eventually resigned. More than 16 per cent of trains run late and reliability is falling. Has paid out £500,000 to customers in exchange for being allowed to keep the hated slam-door trains running for three extra years.	Lost its sobriquet of the Misery Line after improvements and effort by owners. Recently agreed to a £15m package of benefits to customers in exchange for being allowed to keep the hated slam-door trains running for three extra years.	Has been hit by a series of strikes by drivers. Latest figures show the firm was almost the only operator to have improved reliability and punctuality across all routes.	Lates figures showed that three of its eight groups were so bad they triggered passenger discounts. One route group saw delays increase from 5 per cent to 13 per cent. Recently rebranded the franchising director for improving punctuality.	The rebranded Regional Railways North Eastern suffered acute shortage of drivers that prompted cancellations in the summer days. Recent figures show an indifferent performance with poor reliability and punctuality on many of its route groups.	
■ Parent: FirstGroup; route miles: 184; passenger journeys: 5.1 million	■ Parent: Stagecoach; route miles: 920; passenger journeys: 13.7 million	■ Parent: Prism; route miles: 16.4 million	■ Parent: National Express; route miles: 75; passenger journeys: 23 million	■ Parent: MTL; route miles: 507; passenger journeys: 6.3 million	■ Parent: Virgin; route miles: 1,277; passenger journeys: 27 million	■ Parent: MTL; route miles: 27 million	
D ScotRail	silverlink rail services	SWT	Thames Trains	Thameslink	Wales & West	Westcoast Trains	
Its sleeper service is the only route in the UK to claim 100 per cent reliability. Overall, reliable on 95 per cent of its routes, while punctuality is above charter standards. Praised by the franchising director.	Runs commuter trains from Midlands to London. Suffered problems in last few weeks, but latest figures are better. Growth will be limited by lack of capacity if Virgin takes the lion's share of routes on the upgraded West Coast main line.	Narrowly avoided a £1m fine for cancelling services after it made too many services redundant. Latest punctuality figures suggest it is performing better than its rivals, though reliability has improved sharply.	Punctuality plunged so badly this year that it was fined £800,000. Latest figures showed delays increased from 8 per cent to more than 15 per cent.	Led the attack against Railtrack in the row over who is to blame for current problems throughout the country. Has a high level of punctuality with three great tilting franchises on the service that runs through London from Bedford to Brighton.	Immense network that links Peterborough, Birmingham and Fleetwood. Performance varies across the network with three great tilting franchises in the latest figures. One group saw 16 per cent of its trains late.	Runs services from East Anglia to London. Cut the number of trains by 25 per cent to win Peterborough passengers from GNER, its InterCity rival. Recent figures show performance is broadly on the increase.	
■ Parent: National Express; route miles: 1,885; passenger journeys: 56.7 million	■ Parent: National Express; route miles: 200; passenger journeys: 30.7 million	■ Parent: Stagecoach (which also runs eight-mile line on the Isle of Wight); route miles: 584; passenger journeys: 118.2 million	■ Parent: Go-Ahead; route miles: 181; passenger journeys: 30.3 million	■ Parent: Prism; route miles: 1,568; passenger journeys: 13.6 million	■ Parent: Virgin; route miles: 224; passenger journeys: 14.9 million	■ Parent: Virgin; route miles: 676; passenger journeys: 14.9 million	

State may take over failing rail firms

THE GOVERNMENT will today warn rail companies that unless they improve it will strip them of their franchises and hand over their trains to the British Railway Board - effectively renationalising parts of the network.

BY PHILIP THORNTON
Transport Correspondent

John Prescott will use a summit meeting with the train companies and Railtrack to hammer home his message that companies continuing to

provide an appalling service will have no future in the industry.

But the Deputy Prime Minister will also hold to a promise of extending the franchises for the firms with "constructive" proposals. He is determined to

see a tangible improvement in performance after his loss of face this week when the Bill to enact the Strategic Rail Authority (SRA) was not given legislative time in this session. He will instead set up a shadow SRA and produce a draft Bill.

Mr Prescott, who is also Secretary of State for Environment, Transport and the Regions, will warn the 25 train companies that he can use powers to change the Office of Passenger Rail Franchising

Oprah. The franchising director has powers to declare operators in breach of their franchise, but until now has had to negotiate a package of benefits for passengers.

Mr Prescott will tell operators that he is prepared to use powers under the British Railways Board to run trains. BRB is still in public hands and carries out residual duties, such as research and development.

A source close to Mr Prescott said: "Oprah has been shown to want to negotiate packages of benefits rather than apply the letter of the law. But forcing the operator to cough up one or two plati-

ettes is sending the wrong message."

South West Trains, North

West Trains, Chiltern Railways

and LTS Rail have all produced

a package of benefits for pas-

sengers, such as new invest-

ment or refunds to season ticket

holders, rather than face fines or tougher penalties.

Mr Prescott will make clear he is prepared to extend franchises for good performers but will not be blackmailed. "It would be very foolish of anybody to hold a gun to Mr Prescott's head because the guy with the biggest gun is John Prescott who can kick people out of the industry," said the source.

GNER has lodged a bid for extending its seven-year franchise in exchange for 12 new tilting trains - even though those are needed to cope with growing demand.

The same message will be given to Railtrack. It will be told that the Government wants more "direct leverage" over the company, which currently receives £1.6bn of taxpayers' money via access charge paid by the train companies. This could involve paying subsidy direct to Railtrack in exchange for specific targets.

Gerald Corbett, Railtrack's chief executive, has warned that its co-operation on schemes such as the Channel Tunnel rail link could be jeopardised by any "direct interventionist controls". He has said the company would lose the support of the financial markets and would find it harder to raise the kind of money needed to sort the railways out.

A government source said Railtrack's reputation in the City was based on its good relationship with government, which would be jeopardised if it tried to blackmail ministers.

Mr Prescott called today's meeting last month after official

figures showed a marked fall in performance. Railtrack and the train companies have publicly blamed each other although it is understood they have called a truce for the meeting.

The train companies, which will be represented by two executives of each parent company, said they would take a "constructive approach". They believe they have delivered on promises of attracting more passengers, putting on more trains and cutting fares but

have failed on performance.

Mr Prescott may also reveal the main planks of the draft Bill to enact the SRA. The advance look at the legislation is likely to come in the form of a consultation paper. A government source dismissed claims that the industry would be shown a draft Bill.

Mr Prescott has advertised for a chairman for the SRA, who will also head the BR board; a chief executive, who will run the franchising side; and a new rail regulator.

The travelling public is likely to be given a greater say in whether trains are performing to standard. The customer satisfaction surveys, which the companies are required to commission twice a year, will be used alongside reliability and punctuality figures to judge whether companies are meeting standards. These are taken from surveys of about 2,500 travellers and include issues such as fares, ease of buying a ticket, cleanliness of trains and personal security.

The Government believes using the satisfaction surveys as part of the tests for whether train companies are performing well will encourage to think about the passengers.

The next step will be a public summit over the future of the railway industry, which is likely to take place in February. A government source said this would take place "in full public glare" on similar lines to the summit over the water industry.

ONE 2 ONE PRICE CRASH

The Link

The Link Crash Prices On One 2 One Prepay Mobiles

JUST BUY VOUCHERS TO MAKE CALLS
• No Contract • No Monthly Bills • No Credit Checks
With One 2 One 'Up-2-You'

MOTOROLA
Up-2-You Prepay Package

- 99 name and number memory
- Up to 300 minutes talktime/
70 hours standby
- Model: Manhattan Up-2-You
Digital Mobile

Was £99.99† Was £79.99†

SAVE
£30†

THE LINK PRICE
£69.99†
Includes £20 of calls*

SIEMENS
Up-2-You Prepay Package

- 99 name and number memory
- Model: S6
- Up-2-You Digital Mobile

Was £99.99† Was £79.99†

SAVE
£30†

THE LINK PRICE
£69.99†
Includes £20 of calls*

ERICSSON
Up-2-You Prepay Package

- Clock alarm and calculator functions
- 198 name and number memory

Model: PH348
Up-2-You Digital Mobile

Was £149.99†

SAVE
£20†

THE LINK PRICE
£129.99†
Includes £20 of calls*

**FREE CALLS WITH
MONTHLY TARIFF OPTIONS**

**FREE
NATIONAL
DAYTIME
CALLS***

**FREE
NATIONAL
EVENING
CALLS***

**FREE
NATIONAL
WEEKEND
CALLS***

**PLUS
ALL NOW WITH
FREE
LUNCHTIME
CALLS*
(NOON-2pm)**

WITH BRITAIN'S BIGGEST CHOICE OF MOBILE PHONES WE'RE SURE
TO FIND THE RIGHT MOBILE AND TARIFF FOR YOU.

THE EASY ROUTE TO THE RIGHT MOBILE

PREPAY MOBILES

NOW FROM ONLY

£69.99†
LOWEST EVER
PRICE

BRITAIN'S
BIGGEST CHOICE

EXPERT
ADVICE

GUARANTEED
LOWEST PRICES

162 STORES
NATIONWIDE

Freephone

0500 222 666

For your nearest store

The Link

Notice to customers of Halifax International (Isle of Man) Limited.

Halifax International (Isle of Man) Limited announces revised interest rates effective from 1st December 1998.

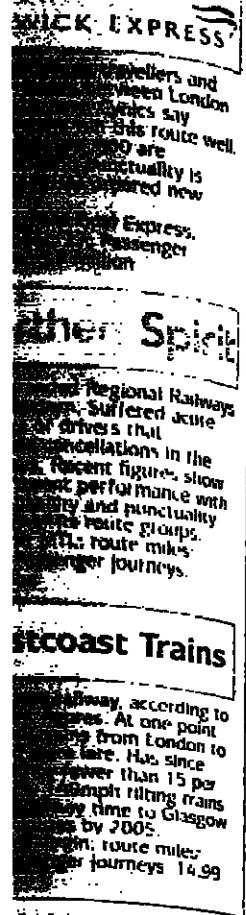
BALANCE	ANNUAL INTEREST GROSS P.A. CURRENT	ANNUAL INTEREST GROSS P.A. FROM 01/12/98	MONTHLY INTEREST GROSS P.A. FROM 01/12/98
HALIFAX INTERNATIONAL MANX PREMIUM			
£100,000+	7.70%	7.15%	6.93%
£50,000+	7.65%	7.10%	6.88%
£25,000+	7.40%	6.90%	6.69%
£10,000+	7.00%	6.50%	6.31%
HALIFAX INTERNATIONAL MANX GOLD			
£100,000+	7.35%	6.80%	6.60%
£50,000+	7.15%	6.60%	6.41%
£25,000+	7.05%	6.55%	6.36%
£10,000+	6.80%	6.10%	5.94%
£5,000+	6.05%	5.55%	5.41%
£500+	4.45%	3.95%	3.88%
£10+	3.20%	2.70%	N/A

If you have less than £10,000 in your Halifax International Manx Premium account it will earn interest at the equivalent Halifax International Manx Gold rate. If you have less than £10 in your Halifax International Manx Premium or Halifax International Manx Gold account we will only pay interest at 1.00% gross p.a. "Gross" means we will not take any tax off the interest we pay. The accounts shown above are only available to residents of the Isle of Man.

Further details can be obtained by calling Halifax International (Isle of Man) Limited on 01624 612323 (from within the UK) or 44 1624 612323 (from outside the UK).

HALIFAX

26th November 1998



The cook Clarissa Dickson Wright at Aberdeen University where she is standing for rector

Simon Price

Fat Lady tipped to win race for university post

BY STEPHEN GOODWIN
Scotland Correspondent

Linklater: Main rival

THE FAT Lady is favourite, but she has lost money at enough horse races to know that the favourite does not necessarily win. If Clarissa Dickson Wright is elected rector of Aberdeen University, she will be the first celebrity cook to hold the title. Students go to the polls today after a lively campus campaign and ritual food fight.

"I was invited to stand by people I didn't know. They'd seen me on Question Time in the summer. They want a high-profile person to fight tuition fees, so it's not just about cooking," said Ms Dickson Wright yesterday.

"People keep making jokes about teaching students to cook. What's more relevant is the nutritional value of food in the refecto-

ry, which I'm told isn't too good."

But as a former lawyer, and pheasant farmer, the 50-year-old thinks that she offers a bigger picture of life than red meat and full-fat foods.

Her main opponent is Magnus Linklater, a former editor of *The Scotsman* and now a political columnist with *The*

Times, who is struggling against a reputation as the "serious candidate". Clarissa baked the students a cake. But my campaign is not entirely solemn," he said. "I've borrowed a slogan from the Wonderbra ad: 'Can't cook, who cares?'"

"I'm not convinced most people know who Magnus Linklater is," said David Welsh, the president of the Student Representative Council. That must be disquieting news for the journalist, 50, whose father, a novelist, was rector at Aberdeen after the Second World War. The Linklater Room houses a collection of 20th-century Scottish paintings left to the university by Eric Linklater. The paintings became an electoral issue when it was remembered that Magnus had once asked if he could give a few of them house room in Edinburgh.

The new rector will suc-

ceed the late Allan MacCartney, the academic and Scottish National Party politician who represented the North East Scotland constituency in the European Parliament.

Scottish Nationalists have had a monopoly on the rectorship in recent years but that is expected to change. Norman Allan, a retired hospital consultant and SNP councillor for 10 years, is the rank outsider. His student supporters even pulled out of the food fight.

That leaves a retired major, Richard Eccles, 48, who has been the most visible campaigner on the campus. He believes students need someone on hand to fight their welfare battles, not an absentee celebrity.

The former Marine, who runs an outdoor centre in the nearby Cairngorms, only got rid of his ear-ring and pyjamas last week at a charity event.

PC who ignored violence loses job

BY JANE HUGHES

A POLICE officer has been forced to resign and another has been fined £1,000 for failing to help a woman who told them her husband had attacked her.

Katherine Ford, 33, an advertising executive, protested to the Police Complaints Authority that the two South Wales constables had dismissed her pleas for help when they called her at home.

After an investigation into her allegations, the two officers were brought before a police disciplinary hearing on charges of neglect of duty.

PC Paul Rolley was "required to resign" and PC Brian Bedford was fined after the case against them was proved.

Mrs Ford welcomed the decision yesterday, saying it was "a lesson to other women that they must stand up for their rights". She added: "I was crying out for help but didn't get it. Police should be there to protect victims of crime. But they just weren't interested and walked away."

Mrs Ford, who is now divorced, launched her complaint after her husband was jailed for four years in October 1996 for a series of 11 attacks on her.

Sean Ford, 34, a market trader from Cardiff, had beaten up his wife so badly that she was treated in hospital at least seven times during their two-and-a-half-year marriage.

Her injuries included a fractured skull, a broken jaw and arm, broken ribs, a stab wound and bite wounds to her leg.

At Ford's trial at Cardiff Crown Court, the jury was told she had reported the attacks to police several times but no action was taken. It was not until she was taken to hospital covered in bruises that her husband was arrested.

Yesterday, Assistant Chief Constable David Francis said: "As a result of a complaint by a member of the public two of

ficers appeared before the Chief Constable to face a disciplinary hearing. The case was proven."

A spokesman for the Police Complaints Authority said the case was an important landmark for the rights of women who suffer domestic violence.

"This woman must have felt very defensive after her treatment by the police officers but the case shows that complaints from the public are taken very seriously by us and the police force involved. We hope this will encourage other people to come forward if they feel they have been unfairly dealt with by police officers."

Julie Bindel, of the domestic violence pressure group Justice for Women, said the hearing's decision was momentous. "As far as I am aware it is the first time this has happened," she said. "It is very hard for a police officer to lose his job because of the way he deals with a member of the public."

"One of the demands women have put forward since working with the police on domestic violence is that there should be a consistent nationwide policy which requires officers to be accountable for their actions or face disciplinary action, just as would happen in other crimes."

She said the case reflected the way police are beginning to respond to the shift in public opinion over domestic violence. "There are countless women who now talk about the exemplary way they have been treated by officers in domestic violence units. This woman has been through a terrible ordeal but her case will, without doubt, put the wind up other forces and encourage women to demand a proper service."

South Wales Police Federation said: "PC Rolley was likely to appeal against the action."

Safe Microwave Cooking Reminder.

With Christmas fast approaching and cooking in the home set to reach its annual peak, we would like to remind all users of Sanyo compact grill microwaves that when cooking poultry they should follow the steps set out in the instruction booklet provided with the oven. The instructions, based on careful testing, are designed to provide the best results through safe cooking practice.

It has come to our attention that if the manufacturer's cooking instructions are not followed - and poultry is allowed to sit in its own juices - there is a small risk of tiny particles of fat catching alight and a momentary flame appearing from the vents at the top of the oven. This is due to fat spitting onto the hot grill element. Independent testing shows that if Sanyo's cooking instructions are followed, and the bird is placed on an upturned heat-proof saucer or low rack when cooking, this problem does not occur.

For further guidance and a free copy of the Sanyo special four-page cooking guide, please telephone the Sanyo Helpline on 0800 4584553.

SANYO

POWER TOOLS & ACCESSORIES FROM £2.99. (Exclusive to Christmas.)

THE REASON TO GET LINE
HOMEBASE

www.homebase.co.uk MONDAY-THURSDAY 8AM-8PM • FRIDAY 8AM-9PM • SATURDAY 8AM-8PM • SUNDAY 10AM-4PM*

*If you can find any of these products or offers locally at a cheaper price, we'll refund the difference. This will not affect your statutory rights. Prices marked include discount. All previous prices have been applicable at over 200 stores. Merchandise subject to availability. Products and offers may vary in Northern Ireland and Eire. **See special offers section. Opening times may vary. *Stores in Scotland open Sunday 9am-6pm, certain other stores open 11am-5pm. Please call 0800 801 800 during office hours for details of your nearest store.

Education: Thousands of old and dangerous buildings throughout the country can now be renovated, says Blunkett

Crumbling schools get grant of £5.4bn

By JUDITH JUDD
Education Editor

the health and safety of pupils and staff.

Mr Blunkett said on a visit to Parliament Hill School in north London: "It will mean a new beginning to tackle the backlog of decades of maintenance work but the Conservatives said there was nothing new in the announcement."

Teachers welcomed the news that ministers were beginning to tackle the backlog of decades of maintenance work but the Conservatives said there was nothing new in the announcement.

Government sources said they were spending twice as much as the previous government would have done on improving school buildings.

Three years ago, a National Union of Teachers survey found that a quarter of 6,500 schools had part of their buildings closed because of danger to pupils and teachers. A third said that poor repairs had harmed

SCHOOLS WILL receive £5.4bn over three years to repair their crumbling buildings. David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, announced yesterday.

For 1999-2000, local authorities will be able to borrow £454m, grant-maintained and church schools will be allocated £242m and the Government will offer £350m to support private investment in improving and maintaining school buildings and £300m for New Deal projects. In the following year, £1.5bn will be allocated and £1.8bn in 2001-02. A further £900m will be provided by local authorities.

The £5bn includes some of the £1bn from the windfall tax for school buildings announced shortly after the government took office. Mr Blunkett said the investment amounted to an extra £750 per pupil.

David Willetts, the Tory education spokesman, attacked Mr Blunkett for "recycling" announcements: "Last week, they

reannounced their Sure Start policy for young children. This week they are recycling the announcement of a capital investment programme for school repairs. There is nothing here which has not been announced several times already."

But Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said: "Teachers and pupils round the country will welcome this investment in building stock. The environment in which pupils and teachers work can help or hinder educational development."

"My one concern must remain the involvement of private companies in the funding of this initiative. Caution is needed about the Private Finance Initiative, which relies on the vagaries of private companies' profit-making."



David Blunkett during his visit yesterday to Parliament Hill School where renovation is under way Mark Chivers



Falling to pieces after 100 years

LAST MONTH a 10-year-old boy at Drayton Green primary school in Ealing, west London, was taken to hospital in an air ambulance after a piece of metal drapery weighing 70lb fell on him as he played football in the playground.

His fellow pupils were said to be traumatised as they gathered around his motionless figure on the ground.

Four weeks later he has returned to the school. Peter Brandreth, one of the school's parent governors, said yesterday: "It is a miracle he is alive. The whole experience has been horrendous, both for children and parents. It is the result of 50 years of neglect of school buildings."

When local education authority officers examined the Victorian building, they found that all the window frames were rotten and that another piece of metal drapery was loose. The library had to be closed because the ceiling was coming down.

While the Health and Safety Executive investigates, the authority has made the school safe. Perspex covers the unsafe

windows and dangerous drainpipes have been removed. Parents are still anxious.

Bethan Marshall, who has two children there, said: "The school dealt brilliantly with the incident but you could see the children looking up at the fabric of the building when they returned. It's not something a school should have to deal with."

"I question whether a bidding system is sufficient to deal with this. The local authority has put in a bid for New Deal money but can give no guarantee that they will get it."

Drayton Green is far from being the only school in trouble. Alan Parker, Ealing's director of education, says nearly all of the council's 90 schools need attention and that some are in an even worse state than Drayton Green. Work has already begun in a number of schools.

Mr Parker said: "We could comfortably spend £60m without being profligate. We did a lot of work on immediate safety at Drayton Green. It no longer represents a hazard, but we would like to do a big refurbishment."

JUDITH JUDD

was modelling clay

now angry parrots fighting

by lee aged 7



was mobile phone

now web surfer

by vaio



Infant tests 'fail to reveal gifted pupils'

CHILDREN SHOULD be given tougher tests when they start school to identify high-flyers, MPs were told yesterday.

So-called baseline assessment tests for pupils aged four and five were too crude to identify the potential of the brightest pupils, the Commons education select committee heard. Experts on gifted children told MPs that up to two-thirds of schools were failing to stretch the 280,000 children thought to have special talents.

The baseline assessment tests are designed to give teachers an idea of pupils' abilities when they start school. But critics of the tests say they put too much pressure on young children.

The tests, which became compulsory for children starting primary school this September, assess pupils' ability to recognise and write the numbers 1 to 10, write their own names, recognise letters by shape and sound, and concentrate without supervision for 10 minutes.

Ian McNiff, chairman of the pressure group Children of High Intelligence and headteacher of a Hampshire primary school, said the tests measured children's abilities, not their potential. He said: "My experience is that the tests do not pick up high potential. Baseline assessment does not show if a child can read a book completely."

He said independent tests at his school had shown that one child in six was in the top 2 per cent of the national ability

range. He said the school was blessed with an unusually gifted year group. "I don't think we know how able children are. It is quite staggering. I have had children come into school with a reading age of 14. I once had a girl who had read Little Women at the age of four."

The group is devising a series of intelligence tests based on computer puzzles and games, designed to spot children with special abilities.

Peter Carey, director of the National Association for Gifted Children, called for government guidelines on the best way to help gifted children.

He warned against pushing gifted children into academic "hot house" schools, and said that "accelerating" children by moving them up one or two years at school could be counter-productive.

Mr Carey said many ordinary comprehensive schools offered an excellent education to very bright children.

He said: "We do have difficulties with some of the less well-run independent prep schools. They seem to be particularly home to highly directed and didactic teaching, which is very stifling of creativity in the very high ability children. A lot of parents feel that small village schools are the answer to their high ability children, but there is some disappointment when they go in."

SON

Personal loan rates from
10.1%
APR
Call Direct Line

Benetton goes black to lead Kurd protest

THE UNITED colours of Benetton have all turned black in Turkey. Only black clothing is on display in the shopfronts of Benetton's 17 outlets in the country. Some have festooned their windows with black ribbon. The only splash of colour permitted is the red Turkish flag.

But this is not one of the outlandish stunts that have made the Italian clothing giant famous. It is a protest against the Italian government's reluctance to extradite the Kurdish rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan to Turkey to face trial for terrorist offences. The move does not come from Benetton, but from the owners of the shops in Turkey, which are operated under licence. "It's a very understandable protest, and Benetton is making no reaction," said a spokeswoman.

The stunt is just one of a series of gestures against Italy from a furious Turkish public. Italian-made mopeds and washing machines have been burnt on the streets. The Italian

BY JUSTIN HUGGLER
in Istanbul

Embassy has been besieged by protesters. "We will annex Italy," one shouted last week.

Viewers tuning into Italian cable television channels found an announcement from Turkey's state-run cable operator explaining that it had cut the stations' broadcasts in protest.

Mr Ocalan and his Kurdistan Workers' Party are loathed in Turkey, where they are blamed for the deaths of 30,000 civilians. Last week, the Turkish Prime Minister, Mesut Yilmaz, threatened Italy with Turkey's "eternal hostility" if it did not hand over Mr Ocalan.

That hostility is visible on the streets. "We're having a boycott on their products, we won't buy a thing from them," are frequent comments. Italian people are no longer welcome, and Rome has warned its citizens to avoid travel in Turkey.

Benetton believes that it will not be hit by a boycott, as 95 per

cent of the products that it sells in Turkey are produced in the country. However, a domestic car manufacturer, Tofas, a joint venture with Italy's Fiat, has already had 1,000 orders cancelled. "For a company which produces 100,000 cars a year, 1,000 can be excused in the name of a national cause, but we are concerned that this loss will grow," a company official said.

The European Union Commission has threatened economic sanctions if the boycott is backed by the Turkish government. Turkey's defence ministry said it would rule Italy out of future defence contracts.

Bitterness spread on to the football pitch when Uefa decided earlier this week to postpone a football match between the Turkish champions, Galatasaray, and Juventus of Turin, because Italian players feared for their safety.

When supporters of Mr Ocalan held a march in central Istanbul last week, angry Turkish bystanders attacked them.



Mother of Turkish soldiers killed fighting the PKK (Kurdistan Workers' Party) demonstrating outside the Italian Consulate in Istanbul EPA

Halfords bikes light up thousands of little faces every year.

(Our prices will light up yours.)



Apollo Flower Power

Suitable for most 3-5 year olds.

£54.99 £43.99 SAVE 20%

Flower Power Cycle Helmet £16.99.

Flower Power Back Pack £9.99.



Apollo Fire Chief Suitable for most 3-5 year olds.

£59.99 £44.99 SAVE 20%

Fire Chief Cycle Helmet £15.99.

Fire Chief Back Pack £7.99.

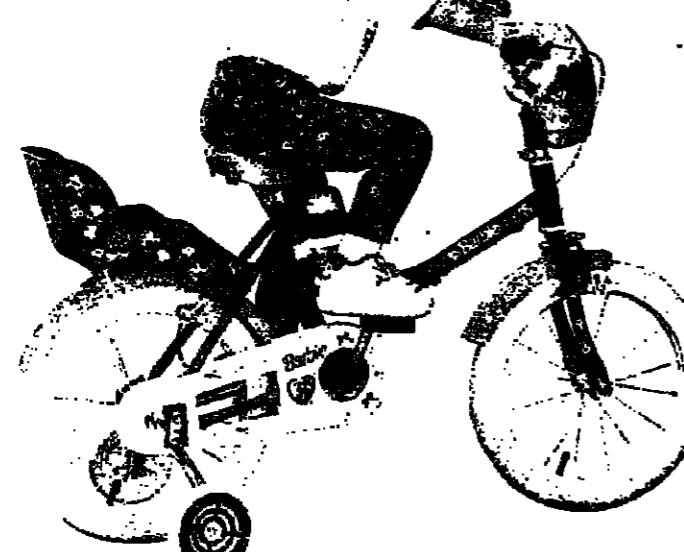


Barbie £79.99.

Suitable for most 4-6 year olds.

Barbie Cycle Helmet £15.99.

Barbie Handlebar Bag £6.99.



Range of Character Bells £3.29.

Range of Waterbottles and Cages from £2.99.



Apollo Dennis the Menace

Suitable for most 5-7 year olds.

£89.99 £79.99 SAVE £10

Dennis the Menace Cycle Helmet

£17.99 £14.99 SAVE £3

Dennis the Menace Mitts £6.99.

HALFORDS WE GO THE EXTRA MILE.

CALL 0345 626 625 FOR YOUR NEAREST SUPERSTORE. SUPERSTORES OPEN 9AM-8PM WEEKDAYS, 9AM-4PM WEEKENDS. CHECK HIGH STREET STORE TIMES LOCALLY. PRICES CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. PRICES SHOWN ARE FOR THE PERIOD 3.11.98-24.12.98.
OFFERS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. HALFORDS LIMITED, ICKNIELD STREET DRIVE, WASHFORD WEST, REDDITCH, WORCESTERSHIRE B90 0DE.

Turkish coalition sunk by scandal

BY JUSTIN HUGGLER
in Istanbul
FRANCES KENNEDY
in Rome
AND KATHERINE BUTLER
in Brussels

TURKEY'S government fell from power yesterday as the country remained embroiled in a bitter dispute with Italy over the fate of a Kurdish rebel leader. Hours before the government lost a parliamentary vote of no-confidence, it had seemed to be making moves to ease tensions with Rome over the extradition of Abdullah Ocalan, leader of the Kurdistan Workers party (PKK).

Turkey's parliament voted 314-214 against Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz's coalition. Mr Yilmaz had been expected to lose the no-confidence vote, brought by opposition parties, after he was accused of corruption in the privatisation of a state bank.

Shortly before voting commenced, the government's senior spokesman was reported to have offered a compromise in Turkey's worsening dispute with Italy by saying Ankara would accept Mr Ocalan's trial in a third country.

Tensions have been high since Mr Ocalan was arrested in Rome two weeks ago. The PKK wants autonomy for Kurds in south-eastern Turkey, but Ankara considers it a terrorist organisation and holds Mr Ocalan responsible for the deaths of 30,000 Turkish civilians.

Turkey had expected Mr Ocalan's extradition to be a formality, and was incensed when Italy said it would consider Mr Ocalan's request for political asylum.

A Rome court overturned Turkey's arrest warrant on the ground that Italian law forbids extradition in cases where the accused might face the death penalty.

Mr Yilmaz on Tuesday suggested Turkey would accept Mr Ocalan's extradition to Germany instead, as Bonn also has an arrest warrant for Mr Ocalan. But, so far, Germany has insisted it will not request the PKK chief's extradition.

In a new twist to the diplomatic crisis, it emerged yesterday that arrival in Rome of the PKK leader had been part

of a plan to try to bring an end to the Kurdish rebellion. A small group of Italian left-wing MPs said they had brought him to Italy in the hope that he would launch a new peace initiative from there.

Ramon Mantovani, a member of the Refoundation party, admitted he had travelled with Mr Ocalan from Moscow to Rome. The disclosure comes as a severe embarrassment to the Italian Prime Minister, Massimo d'Alema, who insisted that Italy was "an innocent victim" in the affair.

Lawyers for the Kurdish leader are now said to be optimistic he will be granted political asylum and allowed to remain in Italy indefinitely.

In Brussels, Nato officials dismissed suggestions that they put pressure on Turkey to ease its war of words with Italy. But sources admitted there was mounting concern about the sudden deterioration of relations between the two Nato allies - and the consequences of the row for Turkey's EU membership bid.

On Tuesday, the European Commission waded in on Italy's side, threatening Turkey with retaliatory trade sanctions.

Nato is worried that the new setback in the EU's shaky relations with Ankara will lead to further political isolation of a key military power that the West can ill afford to alienate.

EU heads of government, many of whom are already deeply hostile to Turkey's accession, will be presented with a damning progress report from the Commission when they meet in Vienna in two weeks. The report cites "persistent human rights violations" linked to the Kurdish question, and "major shortcomings" in the treatment of Turkey's minorities.

Government makes return to Berlin

BY IMRE KARACS
in Bonn

took up seats around a large table and discussed ways of tackling youth unemployment.

A new chancellery being built by the river Spree will be delayed by at least three months, so the first meeting cannot be held there until next October. Meanwhile, Mr Schröder will be working from a cavernous office adjacent to Erich Honecker's, but will live in a villa in what was west Berlin.



ish
tion
by
dal

BY JUSTIN BUGGLER
In Istanbul
FRANCIS KENNEDY
In Rome
AND KATHERINE BUTLER
In Brussels

of a plan to try to bring any
to the Kurdish rebellion.
small group of Italian-leftist
MPs said they had brought
him to Italy in the hope that
would launch a new peace
negotiations from there.

Ramon Monti, a member
of the Renzi government,
admitted he had travelled
to Moscow from Rome. The disclosure comes
as a severe embarrassment
to the Italian Prime Minister
Massimo D'Alema, who insisted
that Italy was "an innocent
victim" in the affair.

Lawyers for the Kurdish
leader are now said to hope
he will be granted political
asylum and allowed to remain in Italy indefinitely.

In Brussels, Nato officials
dismissed suggestions it
they put pressure on Turkey
against its war of words with
that sources admitted he
was mounting concern at
the sudden deterioration of
relations between the two
allies - and the consequence
of the row for Turkey's EU
membership bid.

On Tuesday, the European
Commission waded in on the
side, threatening Turkey with
retaliatory trade sanctions.
Nato is worried that the
setback in the EU's negotiations
with Ankara will further
political isolation of
key military power that
West can ill afford to alienate.

EU heads of government,
many of whom are also
deeply hostile to Turkey's
coup, will be presented with
a damning progress report
from the Commission in
they meet in Vienna in a
week. The report cites "consistent
human rights violations"
linked to the Kurdish
question, and "major
comings" in the treatment
of Turkey's minorities.

ent makes
Berlin

BY JIMMY KARAVAS
In Bonn

took up seats around a big
table and discussed ways
of working youth unemployment.
A new chancellery building
is being built by the river Spree and
is due to be completed by October.
Meanwhile, a
Schreder will be working for
a government office adjacent
to what was West Berlin's
former headquarters.

PoWs set to take war claim to Blair

FORMER PRISONERS of war held by the Japanese are threatening to sue the Government for compensation if their claims are rejected in a Tokyo court today.

Representatives of 25,000 former Allied PoWs and civilian internees will gather in the Tokyo District Court this morning to hear the judgment on their demand for compensation of \$22,000 (£13,500) each for suffering endured at the hands of their Japanese captors during the Second World War.

Lawyers for the group said last night they were pessimistic about the outcome of the case, but that they planned to take their legal struggle to the British courts if it failed today.

"There is an increasing mood of anger against the British Government, and a feeling that we are hanging our heads against a brick wall ... in Japan," the group's British lawyer, Mervyn Day, said in Tokyo last night.

"We're coming to the view that much of the blame for the failure to gain justice for the PoWs and internees lies at the door of the ... Government."

The Japanese government has never disputed the PoWs' claims of beatings, sexual assaults, torture, deprivation and abuse during their captivity. But both the Japanese and British governments insist that issues of compensation were settled in the San Francisco Treaty of 1952, which exempted Japan from further reparations. At the time, former British PoWs received £7.50 for their sufferings in captivity.

The PoWs have always claimed that the official British stance reflects political expediency and a desire to avoid offending Japan, which is a valuable trading partner of the UK and an investor.

But now they believe they

have found a loophole in the treaty, which places responsibility for claiming compensation with the British Government.

A clause in the San Francisco Treaty stated that Britain is entitled to claim more compensation if Japan should subsequently reach a more generous settlement with another country - as it did with several countries, including Burma and Switzerland, during the 1950s.

Recently, Keith Martin, a former civilian internee and a plaintiff in the case, discovered in the Public Record Office confidential some Foreign Office correspondence dating from 1955, which noted this possibility but ruled out further claims "on general grounds of foreign relations, despite the possibility of domestic political embarrassment in connection with Allied prisoners of war".

The case was taken up personally by the Prime Minister, Tony Blair, during his visit to Tokyo last January when he appealed to British people to put the past behind them.

Despite a co-ordinated public relations campaign by the two governments and the visit to Britain of the Japanese Emperor last May, the issue remains.

Last Sunday, about 40 armed thugs forced their way into St Thomas Evangelical Church in Mysore, near Bangalore, in the southern state of Karnataka. They broke up a communion service, attacking the congregation, which consisted mostly of women and children, and beat the Indian pastor.

This was the first attack in Karnataka, a state with a substantial Christian minority. It follows attacks on Christian

communities in other parts of the country, which have multiplied since the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) came to power eight months ago.

Churches have been destroyed, congregations broken up, schools vandalised, Bibles burnt and prayer halls looted. In September, in the northern state of Madhya Pradesh, five nuns were abducted from their convent and gang-raped. There have been no arrests for any of these crimes.

The United Christian Forum for Human Rights, a newly established ecumenical organi-

sation, believes that of the 120 attacks on Christians that have been recorded since 1964, more than 70 have taken place this year alone.

The reason for the increase in attacks is plain: the BJP's grassroots supporters include extremist Hindu zealots who have seized the opportunity offered by BJP rule to pursue their own brutal agenda without fear of legal consequences.

Organisations such as Bajrang Dal, set up after the demolition of the Babri Masjid mosque at Ayodhya in 1992, the Vishwa Hindu Parishad and the RSS have long thrived on Hindu paranoia about the "divisive" and "oppressive" ac-

tivities of India's minorities. In the past the target was generally the far larger Muslim community, but as the BJP cannot risk alienating the Muslim vote for electoral reasons, the focus has switched to the 23 million Christians.

The violence has been accompanied by anti-Christian rhetoric, with the Hindu groups voicing their view that foreign missionaries should be expelled. A leading figure in the RSS, considered to be the most disciplined of the extremist groups, said the recent gang-rape of nuns was due to "the anger of patriotic Hindu youth against anti-national forces".

Against this backdrop,

on the country. It is the majority Hindu community that gets most benefit: Christian students at such institutions amount to 10 per cent of the intake at the most, and sometimes as little as 3 per cent.

The shutdown will be the first such action by the Christian community as a whole. Until recently Christians in India have felt little threatened.

"Christians have had a lot of trust in their rulers," said John Doyal, convenor of the new forum, "and they forgot that the state and the polity in India are becoming more vicious and that this is not a state from which we can expect generosity - or even the rule of law."

Christians call day of action in India

AN EPIDEMIC of violence against Christians in India has prompted an ecumenical group to declare a "day of action" on 4 December, when Christian schools and colleges across the country will close in protest.

The PoWs ... assured us that he has the political will to pursue this case if it is within the Government's legal power," Mr Day said. "We're very clear that there is a case."

The verdict was due just hours before a summit meeting between the Japanese Prime Minister, Keizo Obuchi, and the Chinese President, Jiang Zemin, who is also pressing Tokyo over wartime atrocities perpetrated in Asia.

The PoWs have always claimed that the official British stance reflects political expediency and a desire to avoid offending Japan, which is a valuable trading partner of the UK and an investor.

But now they believe they

have found a loophole in the treaty, which places responsibility for claiming compensation with the British Government.

A clause in the San Francisco Treaty stated that Britain is entitled to claim more compensation if Japan should subsequently reach a more generous settlement with another country - as it did with several countries, including Burma and Switzerland, during the 1950s.

Recently, Keith Martin, a former civilian internee and a plaintiff in the case, discovered in the Public Record Office confidential some Foreign Office correspondence dating from 1955, which noted this possibility but ruled out further claims "on general grounds of foreign relations, despite the possibility of domestic political embarrassment in connection with Allied prisoners of war".

The case was taken up personally by the Prime Minister, Tony Blair, during his visit to Tokyo last January when he appealed to British people to put the past behind them.

Despite a co-ordinated public relations campaign by the two governments and the visit to Britain of the Japanese Emperor last May, the issue remains.

Last Sunday, about 40 armed

thugs forced their way into St Thomas Evangelical Church in Mysore, near Bangalore, in the southern state of Karnataka. They broke up a communion service, attacking the congregation, which consisted mostly of women and children, and beat the Indian pastor.

This was the first attack in Karnataka, a state with a substantial Christian minority. It follows attacks on Christian

communities in other parts of the country, which have multiplied since the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) came to power eight months ago.

The reason for the increase in attacks is plain: the BJP's grassroots supporters include extremist Hindu zealots who have seized the opportunity offered by BJP rule to pursue their own brutal agenda without fear of legal consequences.

Organisations such as Bajrang Dal, set up after the demolition of the Babri Masjid mosque at Ayodhya in 1992, the Vishwa Hindu Parishad and the RSS have long thrived on Hindu paranoia about the "divisive" and "oppressive" ac-

ivities of India's minorities. In the past the target was generally the far larger Muslim community, but as the BJP cannot risk alienating the Muslim vote for electoral reasons, the focus has switched to the 23 million Christians.

The violence has been accompanied by anti-Christian rhetoric, with the Hindu groups voicing their view that foreign missionaries should be expelled. A leading figure in the RSS, considered to be the most disciplined of the extremist groups, said the recent gang-rape of nuns was due to "the anger of patriotic Hindu youth against anti-national forces".

Against this backdrop,

Charles Worthington
Professional 16.5w Salon Dryer
Now £19.50. Save £3.

2 Charles Worthington
Big Hair Quick Curls
Now £29.99. Save £3.

3 Charles Worthington
Big Hair Bristle Brush Airstyler
Now £16.99. Save £3.

LOVE
BETTY



MFI homeworks

SHOPPING HOURS: Sun 11-5, Mon 10-6, Tues, Wed, Thurs 10-6, Fri 10-8, Sat 9-6. MFI homeworks: Sun 1-6, Mon 10-6, Wed to Fri 10-8.

*Your Hygena or Schreiber kitchen must be to the value of £500 or more on cabinets included in the kitchen price list. Offer excludes appliances. Book subject to availability. Limited to one book per customer/household. No cash alternative.

Come into your local MFI homeworks store before 19th December and we'll plan a new

hygena OR Schreiber

kitchen for you - absolutely free. We'll also give you a hardback copy of the River Cafe Cook Book Two, featuring recipes from 'The Italian Kitchen' on Channel 4



Amar Alami (left) at an Arab fund-raising event in London in 1991. Police accept she did not plant the London bombs

Riddle of man behind Israeli embassy bomb

BY ROBERT FISK
Middle East Correspondent

CONVINCED THAT they were "set up" by an agent working for Israel, two Palestinians imprisoned for conspiring to bomb the Israeli embassy in London in 1994 have produced an astonishing portrait of the man they claim was really responsible for the explosion – an Arab who called himself Reda Moghrabi but who is unknown to every major guerrilla group in the Middle East.

Sketches of the man – drawn at the request of *The Independent* by a professional artist in separate sittings with Samar Alami and Jawad Botni in their prisons in the north of England – show an almost identical image: that of a dark-skinned man in his 40s with a lined face, short, black fringe, prominent

eyebrows and nose, and staring eyes.

At their trial and in the two years since, Alami and Botni have protested their innocence of the bombing, insisting that the explosion in July 1994 – in which, remarkably, no one was killed – could only harm the Palestinian cause.

In his summing up before their conviction in 1996, Mr Justice Garland remarked that, so far as the two accused were concerned, Moghrabi "could have been a Mossad agent or a police informer..."

The police agree that Alami and Botni did not actually carry out the bombings but – save for a look through immigration files – have made no further attempt to find Moghrabi. Alami and Botni were sentenced to 24 years. They were also convicted of conspiring to bomb a building containing the Zionist Federation office in Finchley, north London, a few hours after the embassy bomb – though both proved they were far from the scene of the explosions.

Even before the trial began, however, the Israeli ambassador "congratulated" the police on their arrest of the "terrorists". An Israeli embassy security video-camera that might have identified the faces of the real bombers was apparently not working on the day of the explosion.

Alami first disclosed Moghrabi's name towards the end of the court hearing – 200 hours of evidence that contained enough errors and interruptions to raise serious questions about the convictions

– and insisted, with Botni, that she knew nothing about the embassy attack. Today they are convinced, in Alami's words, that "Moghrabi or someone with him set us up from the beginning, either deliberately or to protect themselves from being caught."

Moghrabi – who must have been well known to dozens of Palestinians in London where he attended political discussions and poetry readings at meetings of the Arab Club – apparently worked in the Gulf in the late 1980s and settled in Kuwait until fleeing when the Iraqi army invaded in 1991.

Alami said that she heard rumours that he may have married an English woman in Birmingham; she remembers being given his telephone contact with a prefix 021 (then the dialling code for Birmingham) but says she did not keep the number.

At their 1996 trial, neither Alami nor Botni – respectively chemical and electronic engineers – attempted to hide their own dabbling in experiments which, however preposterous, were intended to assist Palestinian groups in Lebanon and the occupied territories.

They admitted trying to construct miniature aircraft that would carry bombs across the Lebanese frontier to Israel – in the course of an experiment in the Peak District they almost blew up a tree.

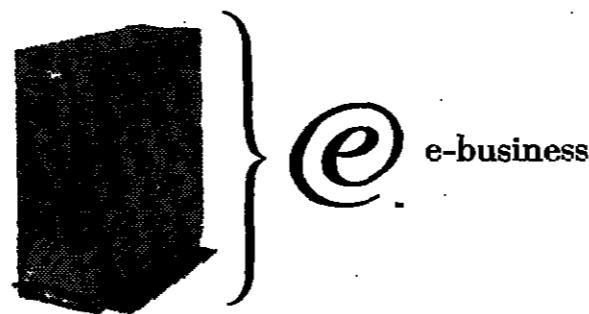
Alami was also found in possession of explosives as well as two guns which she said she was keeping for a Palestinian who feared assassination in London.

Bomber who never was. Review, front

AS/400e = Data Mining.

What does your data know that you don't? An AS/400e data mining solution lets you quickly spot patterns and trends, helping turn raw data into information you can use to make smarter business decisions. Its integrated database lets you get up and running faster. Learn more at www.as400.ibm.com/mining6 or call Harry Walters on 0800 400 000.

IBM, AS/400 and the e-business logo are trademarks of International Business Machines Corporation. Other company, product and service names may be trademarks or service marks of others.



Iraq sees hope in UN decision

BY PATRICK COCEBURN

Peter Burleigh, admitted it was split. "We have not reached any definitive conclusions this evening. So these discussions will continue but this is not a very encouraging start."

Iraq has sent three letters to the Security Council saying 10 out of 12 documents demanded by Richard Butler, the head of Unscowm, are irrelevant, unavailable or concern Iraqi national security.

Sergei Lavrov, Russia's UN representative, said he wanted discussion about whether the documents really existed before agreeing to a statement such as that drafted by Britain. If the council believes Iraq is cooperating, it has promised a full review of its compliance with UN resolutions. This might lead to an easing of sanctions first imposed in 1990.

Iraq isolated itself on 31 October by ending co-operation with Unscowm and thereby alienating Russia, France and China on the Security Council. It is now trying to reverse its diplomatic losses by portraying the US and Britain as seeking confrontation.

US admiral faces adultery charges

BY MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington

A SENIOR United States naval officer faces multiple counts of adultery and lying in the latest case of sexual misconduct to be acknowledged by the military.

According to the *Washington Times*, which revealed details of the charges yesterday, David Scudé, a rear-admiral who was in charge of the Navy's office of outsourcing and privatisation, has been suspended from his duties in Washington and transferred to the naval base at Norfolk, Virginia.

The case has come to light at a sensitive time, only days before the judiciary committee of the House of Representatives holds a special session to compare the accusations against President Bill Clinton in the Monica Lewinsky affair with the definition and punishment of perjury in other areas of American life.

Among those expected to give evidence are judges, con-

victed perjurers and those with experience of handling sexual misconduct cases in the military. Mr Clinton is accused of lying about the affair under oath and obstructing justice, and the committee is considering whether to recommend impeachment.

According to the *Washington Times*, David Scudé is only the second admiral to have been charged with criminal offences since the 1950s. A preliminary hearing is to be held next month to decide whether the case should proceed to court martial.

Scudé, 54 and married, is charged with two counts of adultery, giving false statements, obstruction of justice and violation of military ethics. He is accused of liaisons with a defence contractor and a civilian Navy employee.

IBM

JPMorgan

Slum project brings hope to India's Untouchables

DELHI'S WEALTH sucks the poor out of the countryside in huge numbers. They arrive from all corners of the country, desperate to improve their lot. And this city does a deal with them: wash our dishes, flog our laundry, walk our dogs, build our office blocks, sweep our streets. To that extent, you exist. But there is nowhere for you to live.

Public housing in Delhi is utterly inadequate. And for the poor villagers who roll into town in their thousands, there is not the ghost of a chance of finding a "pucca" house.

So when public land or marginal land along rivers or open drains or railway tracks is not watched over with great vigilance, villagers build new villages on it - gruesome parades of where they came from, homes made of plastic, sacking and flimsy wood, communities lacking drains or running water or electricity, crammed together as tightly as possible.

These "unauthorised colonies", which may contain 4 million of Delhi's roughly 11

FRONTLINE DELHI

million people, can be demolished at any time. Their survival depends on the patronage of a slum landlord-cum-politician who does what is needful in terms of baksheesh and intimidation to keep away the wrecking ball. In return, when elections come around (next week here), he is guaranteed the colony's block vote.

It is a singular way to develop your capital city. It produces virulent epidemics and many other evils. But for Delhi's middle class there is one great compensation: a permanent bank of cheap domestics.

Delhi's slum problem is growing worse all the time, and in the past 10 years the number of unauthorised colonies has doubled from 750 to 1,500.

But the work of a Delhi-based organisation called Asha ("Hope") proves that the slums are not beyond redemption.

Most of Kiran Martin's fellow medical students wanted

either to find a job abroad or to start their own private hospital. Dr Martin was different. "I've always been completely uninterested in money," she says, "and I had a very strong desire to work among the poorest of the poor." So 10 years ago, already an experienced paediatrician, she walked into a terrible Delhi slum called Dr Ambedkar Basti and, after difficult discussions with the slum's intensely suspicious boss, set up her first clinic.

That year cholera raged through Delhi's slums and, as healthcare provision was negligible (like every other public service), Dr Martin found herself in huge demand. But from the outset, healthcare was only the first step; her foot in the door.

Dr Ambedkar Basti is home to 5,500 Dalits or Untouchables, as poor as they are uneducated.

"The conditions were unimaginable," says Dr Martin. "Animals were cohabiting with the people, children and pigs were wallowing together in the mud, children were dying everywhere, there were piles of garbage." The task



Sobha, a slum dweller who has trained as a health worker; tending to a baby John McCormick

Dr Martin gave herself was to work with people as partners," she says. "That is much more difficult, but our philosophy is that the poor have so much potential."

"I was not interested merely in service delivery, but in

the slums. It consists of recruiting and training community health volunteers within the slum; setting up women's groups through which the women can receive training in the rudiments of health, sani-

tation, community organisation and so on; and at the same time working tirelessly with the political bosses and the city's slum commissioners, to cajole, bully and charm them into doing their duty.

"In Dr Ambedkar Basti, the women persuaded me to meet the slum commissioner on their behalf," she remembers. "He came and saw what I was doing there and got the shock of his life. Something happened to him that day. It was the start of a great relationship with this man - he later said this encounter changed his life. Within two months the colony had a proper drain, a tarmac road, hand pumps for water and pavements tiled with bricks."

Spurred on by this success, Dr Martin and her colleagues, most of them passionate though not proselytising Christians, have taken their unique programme to more than 20 other slum colonies around Delhi, home to more than 120,000 people. It's a drop in the ocean. But Asha's most successful projects, such as the

colony of Shanti Vihar, show what can happen when the potential of the people is released.

At Shanti Vihar none of the old stigma of the slums is in evidence. With money funnelled into the colony, largely from the British charity Tearfund, and with intense political pressure applied by Asha, the place has been transformed. Houses are brick-built, lanes are surfaced with concrete, with proper drains underneath; 100 per cent of the children go to school; and the place is stunningly clean.

The transformation is largely the result of Dr Martin's belief in human potential. "We are all human beings, that should be the basis of how we look at each other," she says. "And unless people are trained and organised, no sustained development is possible."

More information about Asha can be obtained from Friends of Asha UK, c/o Peter Martin, 137 Kingfauns Road, Iford, Essex IG3 9QN. Tel 0181 597 0225

PETER POPENHAM

Burma fighters resort to mines

BURMA'S MINORITY Karen community, which has experienced a history of oppression at the hands of the military regime in Rangoon, is now facing two lethal hazards.

For the first time in the decades-long war for a Karen state, both sides have started laying land-mines. In addition, Burmese government forces are reported to have started destroying rice crops to starve out the regime's most powerful military opponent, the Karen National Union (KNU).

While the armed wings of most other Burmese ethnic groups have signed ceasefire agreements with the military regime, the Karen has maintained its resistance, operating in the south of the country around the border with Thailand.

The introduction of land-mines risks pushing Burma in the direction of Cambodia, where the legacy of the civil war is seen almost every day as villagers are killed by land-mines. At the height of the Cambodian fighting, land-mines killed and maimed thousands of civilians.

International observers on the Thai-Burmese border say both the Burmese and Karen forces are using land-mines in the fight to gain territory in southern Burma. The military know where the mines are laid, but civilians do not.

The laying of the mines co-

incides with the start of the dry season, which is when most military offensives are launched.

Burmese dissidents in Bangkok, capital of neighbouring Thailand, report that government soldiers burnt paddy fields near Tavoy in southern Burma at the beginning of this month to deny the KNU access to rice crops.

Zaw Min, a spokesman for the All Burma Students' Democratic Front in Bangkok, said the destruction occurred just before the villagers were expected to harvest their crops.

This will have an enormous effect on the villagers because they have no means of supporting themselves other than their crops," he said.

Ethnic minority villagers in the Burmese border areas have suffered a long history of being displaced and attacked. The Karen is Burma's biggest ethnic minority. Others, including Shan and Mon civilians, have been attacked by the Burmese army for supporting separatist armies before they signed the ceasefire agreements in Rangoon.

Stories of rape and slavery inflicted on the ethnic minorities keep surfacing, although the Burmese government claims to have pacified most of the border regions.

Oxfam Hurricane Appeal

"Imagine your worst nightmare. Imagine waking up to something a hundred times worse."

That's how Hurricane Mitch felt to the people of Central America.

Over 18,000 people are dead or missing.

Millions of survivors are in desperate need.

Oxfam is there. Water equipment, sent within days of the disaster, is already saving thousands of lives - providing clean, safe water and preventing further deaths from cholera and diarrhoea.

Food, medicines, and temporary shelters have been sent to people who have lost everything. We need your help to do more. A water tap can cost as little as £25; a feeding kit for 500 people as much as £250.

Please send your gift to the Oxfam Hurricane Appeal, using the coupon below, or phone now on:

01865 313131

Yes, I want to help. Here is my gift of:

£25 £50 £100 £250 £

Mr, Mrs, Miss, Ms

Address

Postcode

Please send to: Oxfam, Room 8815, FREEPOST, Oxford OX2 7BR. Long-term recovery in Honduras and Nicaragua will take decades and cost billions. Debt cancellation and long-term aid is the only sensible solution. If you want to know more about Oxfam's campaign for debt relief in Central America, please tick here. □



Oxfam is a member of Oxfam International Partnership for Poverty Relief

Orange Everyday 20 could mean it's time to say goodbye to your BT phone

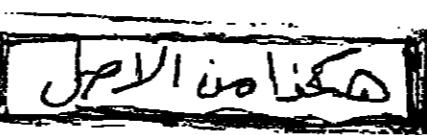
What you get for a total of 50p per day

	Orange Everyday 20	BT
Number of minutes of national off-peak calls	20 minutes every day	5 minutes weekdays or 7 minutes weekends
Line rental	✓	✓
Caller display	✓	✗
Call waiting	✓	✗
Call divert	✓	✗
Conference calling	✓	✗
Busy facility	✓	✗

Orange Everyday 20 gives you 20 minutes of off-peak calls on the best performing digital mobile network in the UK, to anywhere in the country for 50p a day. It's ideal for people who want a phone to use at evenings and weekends. Call 0800 30 10 80 for details or visit www.orange.co.uk



Prices based on standard network recommended rates, excluding discounts or optional schemes and promotional offers. Orange Everyday 20 includes 20 minutes of off-peak calls per day. Peak rate calls cost 40p/min. Any additional off-peak calls cost 10p/min. Orange off-peak period is 7pm-7am. BT off-peak period is 6pm-8am. Connection to Orange is subject to status and a one-off connection charge of £35. Connection to a new BT line is subject to a one-off connection charge of £16.33.



BUSINESS

BRIEFING

M&S turns to City spin doctor

MARKS & SPENCER has brought in one of the City's top spin doctors to handle the announcement of the retailer's management succession. Alan Parker head of Brunswick Public relations was hired at the last minute to advise M&S on how to handle the issue. He was at the M&S's headquarters in London yesterday as the board held a crisis meeting to decide who should succeed Sir Richard Greenbury, who is due to split his chairman and chief executive roles ahead of his planned retirement in 2001.

Marks & Spencer said it will make a statement today regarding the management succession problem.

Opec talks fall behind schedule

OPEC OIL ministers meeting in Vienna last night postponed a meeting at the last minute, apparently because they had not agreed how to boost prices. The meeting had been due to begin at 6pm but bilateral talks were still ongoing. OPEC's 11 members are falling short even of pledged cuts of 2.6 million barrels a day, which are expected to be extended to the end of 1999, with estimates of the actual reduction as low as 2.16 million. Brightening among Saudi Arabia, Venezuela and Iran likely to prevent the deeper output cuts which analysts said are necessary to ease an oil glut and a 38 per cent slump in oil prices in the past year.

Oil prices were little changed yesterday, after falling 12 per cent in the past two weeks, with January Brent crude oil up 2 cents at \$11.21 a barrel in London.

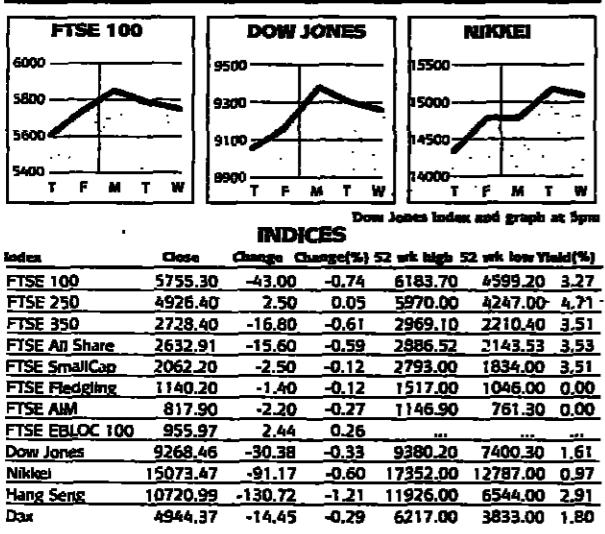
BA pays £240m for stake in Iberia

BRITISH AIRWAYS and American Airlines are to pay 58bn pesetas (£240m) for a 9 per cent stake in Iberia, the Spanish flag carrier, Spain's Industry Minister Jose Piquet said yesterday.

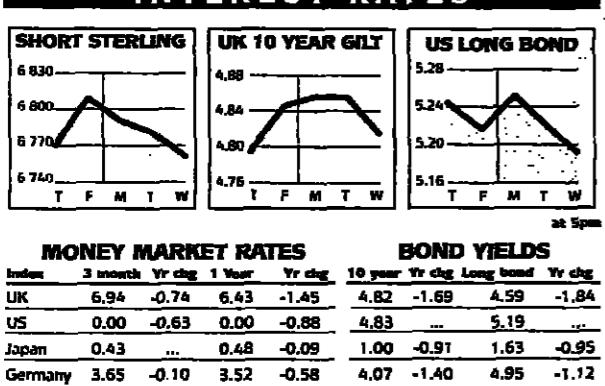
As part of the agreement to buy the stake from Spain's state holding company, Sepi, both sides have agreed to value Iberia at Pta580bn. New shares will be created for the deal with Sepi increasing Iberia's share capital by Pta780m. The extra Pta20bn amounts to the remains of a Pta107bn bailout three years ago.

The sale is the first part of the Iberia's privatisation. Sepi plans to sell 30 per cent to Spanish industrial companies in the first quarter of next year. That will be followed by a public share sale of 50 per cent in May or June if market conditions permit.

STOCK MARKETS



INTEREST RATES



MONEY MARKET RATES



CURRENCIES



OTHER INDICATORS



SOURCE: BLOOMBERG

TOURIST RATES



Rates for indication purposes only

Source: Thomas Cook

Record £2.5bn trade gap raises hopes of rate cut

BRITAIN'S DEFICIT on traded goods ballooned to £2.5bn in September, the largest monthly deficit since records began over 300 years ago.

Analysts said the figures - which revealed falling export demand and a sharp rise in imports - increased the likelihood of another cut in interest rates before Christmas.

Adam Cole at HSBC Securities said: "These data further increase the pressure for lower base rates with January still the most likely timing, but December looking an increasingly close call."

The poor data knocked sentiment in the stock market, where the FTSE 100 index closed down 43 points at 5755.3.

Analysts said a surge in imports

was making domestically-produced goods look expensive. ABN Amro said: "The loss of competitiveness is encouraging import penetration."

Sterling later recovered following publication of weak German price data, and finished the day at DM2.83, virtually unchanged from Tuesday's close.

Analysts said a surge in imports

was the main reason behind the rise in the goods deficit, which almost doubled between August and September.

The value of imported goods rose by 5.2 per cent during the month, taking the total value of goods imported in September to £15.8 billion.

Prices of imported goods

rose to Russia has primarily made domestic products look expensive. ABN Amro said: "The loss of competitiveness is encouraging import penetration."

The 0.9 per cent fall in the prices of goods imported from outside the European Union suggests that crisis-hit economies in Asia are cutting prices in an attempt to stimulate demand, analysts said.

The value of goods exported by the UK fell by 3.2 per cent in September to £13.3 bn. The ONS said exports to East Asia had stabilised, although they remain some 30 per cent below normal.

Exports from both inside and outside the European Union were up, suggesting that the recent strength of the

traded services was £954m, marginally down from August's surplus of £1.05bn. This takes the balance of trade - which combines the services surplus with the goods deficit - to a deficit of £1.5bn, again the highest on record. Economists were gloomy about the near-term outlook for trade.

Preliminary figures on trade in goods with non-EU countries in October suggest a marginal improvement to the trade position, although economists said the overall trend was still overwhelmingly negative.

The October non-EU deficit on goods was estimated at £1.3 bn, down from a record £1.9 bn in September.

Trade in services is still holding up, according to ONS figures, despite the difficult business environment.

September's surplus on

outlook, page 21

Carlton picks Asda man, 34, as chief

BY NIGEL COPE AND PETER THAL LARSEN

CARLTON Communications, the television company led by Michael Green, yesterday appointed a 34-year-old marketing specialist as its new chief executive.

Steven Cain, who is currently marketing director at Asda, will join Carlton in the new year. He will almost certainly be the youngest chief executive of a FTSE 100 company. He replaces June de Moller, Carlton's managing director, who announced her decision to retire in September.

The appointment surprised analysts who said Mr Cain has no experience of the media industry. But Carlton said the retail sector had groomed some of Britain's best managers and it was keen to capitalise on that expertise. "We wanted someone who is on the way up who can make their mark at Carlton," the company said. Mr Green, Carlton's chairman, said: "Steven was the outstanding candidate in a strong field."

The decision to create the new post of chief executive is being seen as a sign of Carlton beefing up its senior management structure to reflect its heavy investment in digital television through ONdigital, its pay-television joint venture with Granada. Mr Green is not expected to scale back his involvement in the company.

Mr Cain, who is married with three children, has a career record remarkably similar to Archie Norman, Asda's chairman. He graduated from Imperial College before joining Bain & Co the management consultants.

In 1989 he joined Kingfisher, the Woolworths and B&Q retailer, looking after group development and strategy. He left to join Asda in 1992 as marketing controller before joining the board 12 months ago.

Paul Smiddy, of Credit Lyonnais, said: "I wouldn't have thought that being marketing director of a domestic food retailer with a single business is the best preparation for running a multi-faceted, international operation."

Paul Smiddy, of Credit Lyonnais, said: "I wouldn't have thought that being marketing director of a domestic food retailer with a single business is the best preparation for running a multi-faceted, international operation."

Shares closed higher on Bank of Italy rate cut hopes, a firm dollar and investor bargain hunting. dealers said. The Mibtel index closed 300 points higher, or 1.41 per cent, to 22,159 while the Mib30 rose 451 to 32,679.

Fiat closed 6.49 per cent higher on speculation of a reorganisation of the Agnelli family's assets including Fiat. An earlier report said that Fiat received 6,200 orders from Italian dealerships for its new Multipla model in two days.

National air carrier Alitalia fell 60 to 5,755 on profit-taking.

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

LONDON SHARES yesterday closed down for the second day running hit by a bout of profit-taking and weaknesses on the world's major stock markets.

The Footsie 100 blue

The method in Nat Power's madness



OUTLOOK

NEVER SINCE the last government decided to privatise the electricity generating industry by creating a duopoly, National Power has had the reputation of being slower and less sure-footed than its smaller brother PowerGen. When NatPower does move, however, it does not believe in half measures.

Yesterday it announced the disposal of 40 per cent of its generating capacity and a ground-breaking move into electricity retailing through the £180m purchase of Midlands Electricity's supply

business.

Vertical integration is the name of the power game these days. All its rivals have done it and now National Power has conceded that the way forward is not only to generate the juice but also supply it into the kitchen. Even so, the tactics employed by Nat Power look high risk, which is why the market fretted and wiped 3 per cent of the shares.

By putting Drax on the block, Nat Power is letting go of the jewel in its crown. The station is the newest, most efficient and cleanest coal-fired station in the land. In return it expects to get regulatory approval to acquire 2.2 million domestic cus-

tomers who between them generated profits of £100m for Midland last year.

Factor in the high-priced long-term supply contracts that Nat Power also inherits from Midlands and the cost of the acquisition probably works at about £150 a customer. Since Midlands made a profit of only £2.60 a customer last year, it does not take a genius to work out that the payback period could be a rather long one.

But there may be method in Nat Power's apparent madness. Precisely because it is so efficient, Drax should fetch a good price - say £2bn. The alternative was to sell off under-utilised plant for a low price

and then watch the buyer turn up the wick, eating further into Nat Power's market position.

The Midlands deal looks harder to square. On the other hand, the margin in electricity is moving away from generating and towards supply. Supposing NatPower can sell its 2.2 million customers extra services, like gas, insurance and perhaps telecoms, the sums may begin to add up. More importantly, ownership of a supply business will provide a natural hedge for the generating arm.

So Keith Henry, NatPower's chief executive, has a story to tell. If he wants the market to buy it, he may have to be prepared to return some, if not all, of the Drax proceeds to investors, rather than spending it on further expansion overseas.

Equity prices

MORE AND MORE curious grows Alan Greenspan's decision last week to cut US interest rates - the third such cut in two months. According to revised figures just released, the American economy grew at a stonking 3.9 per cent in the third quarter of this year, fed by

a consumption binge of almost unprecedented proportions. Inflation may be in abeyance, but it is surely the case that with US economic growth now beginning to show all the characteristics of a tiger economy, rather than a standard, low growth OECD laggard, the US should be increasing interest rates, not lowering them.

What's more, US stock markets have recovered to a level which Mr Greenspan must find alarming in the extreme. In doing so, moreover, they have been underpinned by the prospect of ever cheaper money for those who want to borrow. There is no other reason why they should be back at levels last seen in mid July. US corporate earnings are falling, despite the boom economy, and while things might still seem rosy in the US, they look pretty horrendous elsewhere.

Take the UK. Our trade deficit in goods is now at its highest level in nominal terms since records began 300 years ago. Thankfully, the UK is still running a healthy £1 billion trade surplus on services, but this is not enough to outweigh the now yawning gap in goods. The dire economic situation in the Far East has hit export demand, and has led to a flood of cheap imports. Perhaps

more importantly, the strong pound has finally begun to undermine British competitiveness, making UK firms seem expensive against overseas rivals.

The near-term outlook for UK trade is little better. Although the recent weakening of sterling will provide some respite, it takes time for changes in the exchange rate to feed through into the real economy. It is only now that we are seeing the full consequences of the pound's strength during 1997 and early 1998. Recent cuts in interest rates will also help. But again, it can take as long as two years before lower interest rates really make a difference.

All this suggests the outlook for 2000 and beyond may not be too bad. In 1998, on the other hand, the UK economy looks like it's in an exceedingly rough ride. Back in the US, the economy and the stock market are booming, but corporate earnings are falling - all this against a world economy which is slowing dramatically. The picture is a deeply confusing one. In such circumstances it is no wonder many are beginning to question whether Mr Greenspan has got his policy stance right. Could this be a repeat of 1987,

when central bankers over-reacted to the stock market crash, thereby accentuating the latter stages of the boom and deepening the subsequent recession?

It would be disingenuous of this column, which along with many other commentators, urged Mr Greenspan and other central bankers to make sharp cuts in interest in response to the global turmoil, now to turn round and say he's got it all wrong. On the other hand few could have predicted the scale and speed of the recovery in world equity markets. If Mr Greenspan thought stock markets irrationally exuberant two years ago, when he first coined the phrase, what on earth does he make of them now?

Emerson/Astec

SO MUCH for shareholder power. Emerson Electric, the heavyweight of the US electronics industry, yesterday landed the knockout punch in its battle with London's fund managers by launching a bid recommended by independent directors to buy out the minority shareholding in Astec (GSSR). Eleven months after stepping into the ring with Emerson,

institutional investors have not only suffered a painful defeat. They are also about £40m worse off.

Astec is an obscure manufacturer of power drives that earlier this year became the focal point of a debate of high principle in the City: can a majority shareholder bully others into accepting a bid for their shares? The saga started in January when Emerson made an informal bid to buy out the minority shareholders at 111p. If they refused, it would pack the board with its appointees and cut Astec's dividend.

Since then, Astec's share price has headed south as the company was hit by the slump in the Far East. Since January, profit forecasts for the company have halved. The slump was so severe that Emerson's 85p a share bid is more than double Astec's share price immediately before the bid.

True, institutional investors can question the judgement of the independent directors, who yesterday accepted the bid despite having rejected 111p a share as advisory earlier in the year. However, the fund managers should face some penetrating questions about putting their trustees' money on the line for a matter of principle.

Carlton picks Asda man, 34, as chief

BY NIGEL COPE AND INTERVIEW THAI LARSEN

CARLTON Communications has appointed Michael Green, a 34-year-old media specialist, as its new director general.

Steven Carr, who is currently marketing director at Asda, will join Carlton next year. He will almost certainly be the youngest executive of a FTSE 100 company to replace a 50-year-old Carlton's managing director who announced her departure in September.

The appointment suggests analysts believe Mr Carr has experience in the media industry. But Carlton's staff sector had promised Britain's best management team kept its capitalistic expertise. "We wanted someone who is on the way up to take their mark at Carlton," he said. "Asda's chairman, Sir Steven, was the outside candidate and a strong candidate."

The decision to create a new post of chief executive seems set to signal a significant shift in the senior management structure to reflect heavy investment in television that such a deal may never have been envisaged.

Mr Carr, who is married with three children, has never worked in media before. He joined Asda in 1992, having previously worked in the food retailing industry.

In 1994 he joined Asda's food division, where he worked in the food retailing industry.

Mr Carr, who is married with three children, has never worked in media before. He joined Asda in 1992, having previously worked in the food retailing industry.

Mr Carr, who is married with three children, has never worked in media before. He joined Asda in 1992, having previously worked in the food retailing industry.

Mr Carr, who is married with three children, has never worked in media before. He joined Asda in 1992, having previously worked in the food retailing industry.

Mr Carr, who is married with three children, has never worked in media before. He joined Asda in 1992, having previously worked in the food retailing industry.

Mr Carr, who is married with three children, has never worked in media before. He joined Asda in 1992, having previously worked in the food retailing industry.

Mr Carr, who is married with three children, has never worked in media before. He joined Asda in 1992, having previously worked in the food retailing industry.

Mr Carr, who is married with three children, has never worked in media before. He joined Asda in 1992, having previously worked in the food retailing industry.

Mr Carr, who is married with three children, has never worked in media before. He joined Asda in 1992, having previously worked in the food retailing industry.

Mr Carr, who is married with three children, has never worked in media before. He joined Asda in 1992, having previously worked in the food retailing industry.

Mr Carr, who is married with three children, has never worked in media before. He joined Asda in 1992, having previously worked in the food retailing industry.

Mr Carr, who is married with three children, has never worked in media before. He joined Asda in 1992, having previously worked in the food retailing industry.

Mr Carr, who is married with three children, has never worked in media before. He joined Asda in 1992, having previously worked in the food retailing industry.

Mr Carr, who is married with three children, has never worked in media before. He joined Asda in 1992, having previously worked in the food retailing industry.

Mr Carr, who is married with three children, has never worked in media before. He joined Asda in 1992, having previously worked in the food retailing industry.

Mr Carr, who is married with three children, has never worked in media before. He joined Asda in 1992, having previously worked in the food retailing industry.

Mr Carr, who is married with three children, has never worked in media before. He joined Asda in 1992, having previously worked in the food retailing industry.

Mr Carr, who is married with three children, has never worked in media before. He joined Asda in 1992, having previously worked in the food retailing industry.

Mr Carr, who is married with three children, has never worked in media before. He joined Asda in 1992, having previously worked in the food retailing industry.

Mr Carr, who is married with three children, has never worked in media before. He joined Asda in 1992, having previously worked in the food retailing industry.

Mr Carr, who is married with three children, has never worked in media before. He joined Asda in 1992, having previously worked in the food retailing industry.

Mr Carr, who is married with three children, has never worked in media before. He joined Asda in 1992, having previously worked in the food retailing industry.

Mr Carr, who is married with three children, has never worked in media before. He joined Asda in 1992, having previously worked in the food retailing industry.

Mr Carr, who is married with three children, has never worked in media before. He joined Asda in 1992, having previously worked in the food retailing industry.

Mr Carr, who is married with three children, has never worked in media before. He joined Asda in 1992, having previously worked in the food retailing industry.

Mr Carr, who is married with three children, has never worked in media before. He joined Asda in 1992, having previously worked in the food retailing industry.

Mr Carr, who is married with three children, has never worked in media before. He joined Asda in 1992, having previously worked in the food retailing industry.

Mr Carr, who is married with three children, has never worked in media before. He joined Asda in 1992, having previously worked in the food retailing industry.

Mr Carr, who is married with three children, has never worked in media before. He joined Asda in 1992, having previously worked in the food retailing industry.

Mr Carr, who is married with three children, has never worked in media before. He joined Asda in 1992, having previously worked in the food retailing industry.

Mr Carr, who is married with three children, has never worked in media before. He joined Asda in 1992, having previously worked in the food retailing industry.

Mr Carr, who is married with three children, has never worked in media before. He joined Asda in 1992, having previously worked in the food retailing industry.

Mr Carr, who is married with three children, has never worked in media before. He joined Asda in 1992, having previously worked in the food retailing industry.

Mr Carr, who is married with three children, has never worked in media before. He joined Asda in 1992, having previously worked in the food retailing industry.

Mr Carr, who is married with three children, has never worked in media before. He joined Asda in 1992, having previously worked in the food retailing industry.

Mr Carr, who is married with three children, has never worked in media before. He joined Asda in 1992, having previously worked in the food retailing industry.

Mr Carr, who is married with three children, has never worked in media before. He joined Asda in 1992, having previously worked in the food retailing industry.

Mr Carr, who is married with three children, has never worked in media before. He joined Asda in 1992, having previously worked in the food retailing industry.

Mr Carr, who is married with three children, has never worked in media before. He joined Asda in 1992, having previously worked in the food retailing industry.

Mr Carr, who is married with three children, has never worked in media before. He joined Asda in 1992, having previously worked in the food retailing industry.

Mr Carr, who is married with three children, has never worked in media before. He joined Asda in 1992, having previously worked in the food retailing industry.

Mr Carr, who is married with three children, has never worked in media before. He joined Asda in 1992, having previously worked in the food retailing industry.

Mr Carr, who is married with three children, has never worked in media before. He joined Asda in 1992, having previously worked in the food retailing industry.

Mr Carr, who is married with three children, has never worked in media before. He joined Asda in 1992, having previously worked in the food retailing industry.

Mr Carr, who is married with three children, has never worked in media before. He joined Asda in 1992, having previously worked in the food retailing industry.

Mr Carr, who is married with three children, has never worked in media before. He joined Asda in 1992, having previously worked in the food retailing industry.

Mr Carr, who is married with three children, has never worked in media before. He joined Asda in 1992, having previously worked in the food retailing industry.

Mr Carr, who is married with three children, has never worked in media before. He joined Asda in 1992, having previously worked in the food retailing industry.

Mr Carr, who is married with three children, has never worked in media before. He joined Asda in 1992, having previously worked in the food retailing industry.

Mr Carr, who is married with three children, has never worked in media before. He joined Asda in 1992, having previously worked in the food retailing industry.

Mr Carr, who is married with three children, has never worked in media before. He joined Asda in 1992, having previously worked in the food retailing industry.

Mr Carr, who is married with three children, has never worked in media before. He joined Asda in 1992, having previously worked in the food retailing industry.

Mr Carr, who is married with three children, has never worked in media before. He joined Asda in 1992, having previously worked in the food retailing industry.

Mr Carr, who is married with three children, has never worked in media before. He joined Asda in 1992, having previously worked in the food retailing industry.

Mr Carr, who is married with three children, has never worked in media before. He joined Asda in 1992, having previously worked in the food retailing industry.

Mr Carr, who is married with three children, has never worked in media before. He joined Asda in 1992, having previously worked in the food retailing industry.

Mr Carr, who is married with three children, has never worked in media before. He joined Asda in 1992, having previously worked in the food retailing industry.

Mr Carr, who is married with three children, has never worked in media before. He joined Asda in 1992, having previously worked in the food retailing industry.

Mr Carr, who is married with three children, has never worked in media before. He joined Asda in 1992, having previously worked in the food retailing industry.

Mr Carr, who is married with three children, has never worked in media before. He joined Asda in 1992, having previously worked in the food retailing industry.

Mr Carr, who is married with three children, has never worked in media before. He joined Asda in 1992, having previously worked in the food retailing industry.

Mr Carr, who is married with three children, has never worked in media before. He joined Asda in 1992, having previously worked in the food retailing industry.

Mr Carr, who is married with three children, has never worked in media before. He joined Asda in 1992, having previously worked in the food retailing industry.

Mr Carr, who is married with three children, has never worked in media before. He joined Asda in 1992, having previously worked in the food retailing industry.

Mr Carr, who is married with three children, has never worked in media before. He joined Asda in 1992, having previously worked in the food retailing industry.

Mr Carr, who is married with three children, has never worked in media before. He joined Asda in 1992, having previously worked in the food retailing industry.

There is much to fear from Japan rescue plan



HAMISH MCRAE

The problem is that these ideas are hardly credible, given the make-believe tone of the rest of it

ly improve the quality of life; they would also create more space both for additional consumer durables and for additional people. This last point matters. Along with Italy and Germany, Japan has one of the lowest fertility rates of the G7.

The problem is that these ideas are hardly credible, given the make-believe tone of much of the rest of the plan. Thus there are assurances that the economy will achieve growth in 1999. I suppose that is possible, but anyone who has spent time with Japanese officials will know that sometimes official words mean nothing. If, therefore, the economic objectives are not met, the very sensible social and lifestyle objectives may also be undermined.

The dangers that arise if the economic objectives are not met grow almost daily. Just yesterday, it emerged from the Ministry of Finance I had not realised that there is a lot of detailed planning going into the redirection of growth away from production of goods and towards improvements in lifestyle.

As any visitor to the country will appreciate there are many aspects of the lifestyle which are very attractive: the cleanliness, order and safety of its cities for example. But there are also aspects that could clearly be better - where people do not live as well as they should. So it is encouraging that the package includes a plan to double the size of living space. Larger houses would not only enormous

revenue shortfalls from lower receipts from corporation taxation. MoF officials fear that the budget deficit could reach 10 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP).

Now have a look at the graph. It shows the Japanese general government deficit over the last nine years, together with forecasts for the next two. The government was running a surplus 10 years ago and a manageable deficit through the Nineties. But now the country is facing a fiscal catastrophe. A budget deficit of 10 per cent? That is the sort of thing you would expect from Russia. At no time during the entire post-war period has Britain run a deficit on that scale, even when we lost control of public spending in the mid Seventies.

Indeed, the actual position is even worse than the one set out in the graph, which only covers central government. You have to add local government borrowing, which could bring the total public-sector financial balance to 12 per cent of GDP in 1999. No wonder Japan's debt rating has been downgraded by Moody's, the United States rating agency.

If a fiscal policy appears not to be credible, people freeze. Lenders freeze, consumers freeze, companies freeze. People know that whatever is happening will have to be reversed, and save for the coming rainy day. That is precisely the danger Japan faces now. Conventional wisdom holds that given the overriding need to boost demand, it is right to run a larger fiscal deficit. The

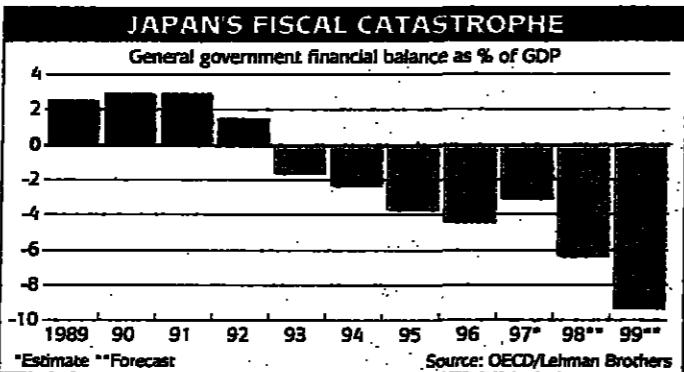
dreadful truth may be that this is wrong: that running a deficit which is not credible will actually have the perverse effect of cutting demand.

This will take place for several reasons. Most obviously, if the larger deficit were to push up long-term interest rates, the additional borrowing by the public sector would be likely to be offset by lower borrowing by the private sector. This has not happened yet. There has been a widening of the "Japan premium" in the financial markets - the rate at which their banks borrow from other banks above the normal interbank rate. That reflects foreign concern about their credit-worthiness. Concern about the government's credit-worthiness (as opposed to the banks) has not yet pushed up bond yields, which are ludicrously low. The levels of domestic savings are so enormous that funding the deficit is not yet a financial problem, and it may never become one.

But there is a difference between a financial problem and a psychological one. If Japanese people feel the government is being irresponsible by borrowing so much, they may themselves simply save more - and thereby offset any fiscal boost the additional spending might generate.

In short, the Keynesian pump-priming being urged on Japan may not work. Worse, it may actually have the perverse effect of cutting demand because of its impact on confidence. Everyone knows that a lot of Japanese public investment is of poor quality. If a country borrows for stupid projects people realise that sooner or later they will have to foot the bill.

So what is to be done? The answer is to deregulate and to cut personal taxation: to do what the US and Britain have done to convince ordinary people that it is reasonable that if they work hard they should enjoy the fruits of that work. It is a novel idea in Japan. But expect to hear much more of it in the months to come. Meanwhile, outsiders should resist urging the Japanese government to borrow more money: they will not have to pay back the debts.



Tina Turner wins despite Iron Maiden's charms

PEOPLE AND BUSINESS

BY JOHN WILLCOCK

MARTIN GOODCHILD, recently installed managing partner of the accountants Pannell Kerr Forster, proudly sports two gold discs on his office wall, both million-sellers by head-banging heavy metal heroes Iron Maiden.

It turns out that Mr Goodchild helped to set up a management consultancy called Sanctuary whose chief client is Iron Maiden. He is no longer a director, but still retains an affection for the link.

So is Mr Goodchild a head-banger himself? I ask?

"No, no, I'm much more Tina Turner."

ONE BRANCH of the Rothschild family has put Exbury Garden Nursery up for sale, a world-famous centre in the New Forest for propagating exotic rhododendrons and azaleas.

The nurseries are being sold by Edmund "Eddie" de Rothschild, second cousin to Sir Evelyn de Rothschild, chairman of the eponymous investment bank NM Rothschild.

Edmund's father, Lionel de Rothschild, carved out 70 acres of gardens from the New Forest after the First World War. The nurseries, however,

have been so successful - attracting visitors from as far afield as Japan and the United States - that a new owner is needed to fund expansion.

So, if you fancy bidding for one of the world's best growers of camellias and pieris, get your offer in to Simon White of Deloitte & Touche in Southampton, who is handling the sale for the family.

CHARLES ALLEN, chief executive of Granada, started analysing yesterday

TALKING OF strange new business phrases, I noticed a number while perusing the latest edition of the Collins English Dictionary (price £24.99). "Ad hococracy - management that responds to urgent problems rather than planning to avoid them." My favourite, however, is: "Garbology - the study of the contents of domestic dustbins to analyse the consumption patterns of households."

THE SECURITIES Institute has hired Paul Cattermull to be managing director of its training arm starting next Monday. The role includes training up a lot of brokers in Singapore, Hong Kong, South Africa, Ukraine and other markets, markets which are seeking to establish equivalent professional bodies to the institute.

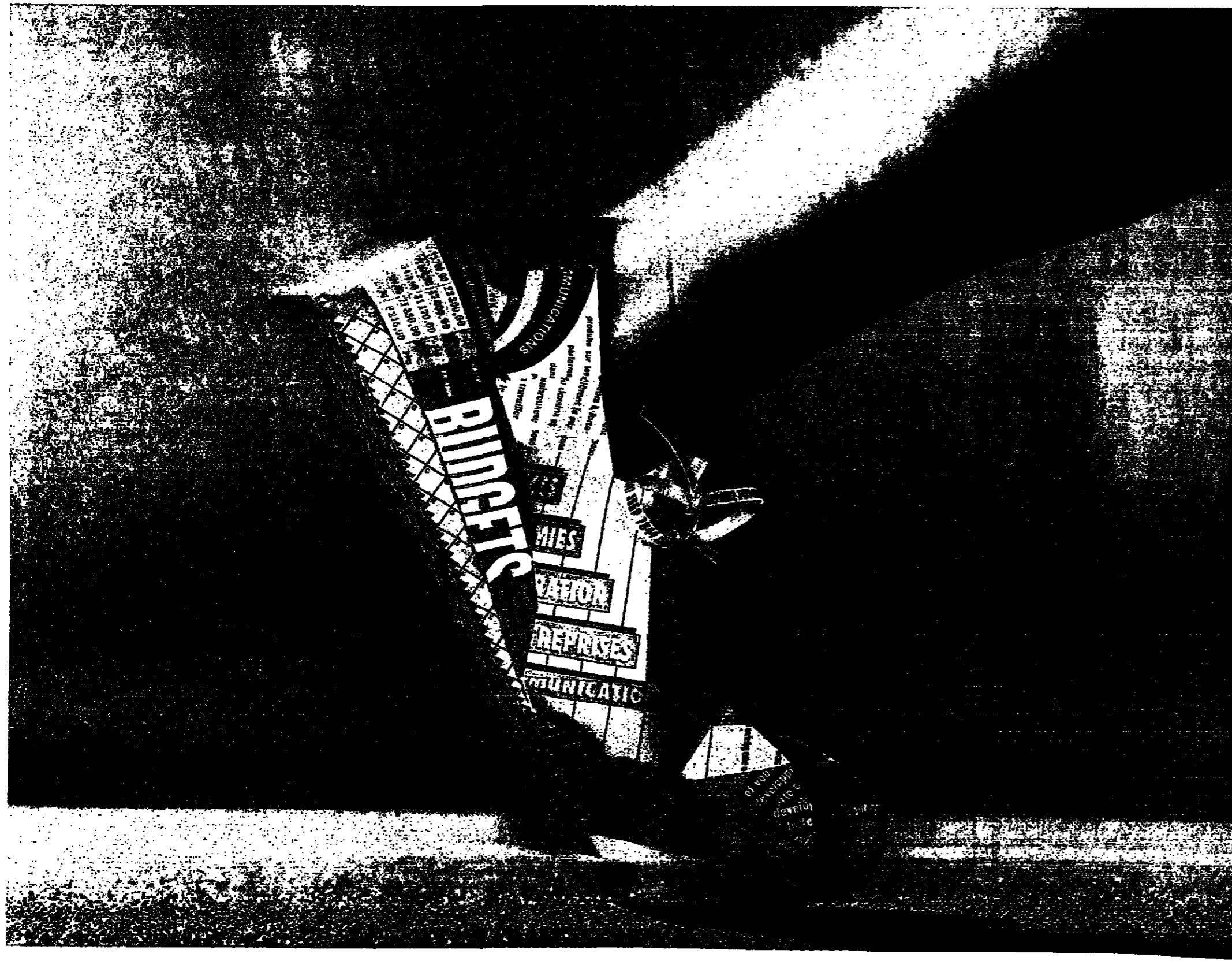
Mr Cattermull will leave any globo-trotting, however, to his predecessor, Tim Nicholson, who continues as a consultant to the institute.

Mr Cattermull has spent 15 years in private client asset management, following the Army and business school. After a stint with Schroders, Binder Hamlyn asked him to set up an asset management business for them in 1987, quite a departure for an accountancy firm in those days. Binder sold the operation to Masonson Investment Management in 1992, and he moved to Hill Samuel. When Hill Samuel sold its private client asset business to Lloyds Private Banking this year he was left at a loose end. He knows his new chief executive Geoffrey Turner well, however - they were on the board of the Association of Private Client Investment Managers and Stockbrokers (Apicus) together.

COMPANY RESULTS

Name	Turnover (£)	Pre-tax (£)	EPS	Dividend	Pay day	X-div
Aerospace Polar plc (F)	59.5m (98.5m)	7.0m (10.0m)	11.1p (14.0p)	6.5p (6.0p)	22/01/99	07/12/98
Advantage Project Capital (F)	6.1m (5.26m)	0.50m (0.26m)	3.0p (2.29p)	1.25p (1.09p)	02/03/99	07/12/98
Bathrooms Industrial Services (I)	16.42m (14.03m)	2.31m (1.74m)	9.6p (7.71p)	1.30p (-)	12/04/99	07/12/98
Banner Chemicals plc (I)	21.68m (34.73m)	14.02m (2.50m)	9.40p (1.22p)	0.50p (0.5p)	15/01/99	07/12/98
Bristol Water plc (I)	33.47m (31.82m)	7.91m (7.16m)	108.5p (89.5p)	19.4p (18.0p)	14/04/99	07/12/98
Bristol Water Holdings (I)	35.31m (40.48m)	8.65m (7.11m)	100.2p (94.5p)	18.50p (17.15p)	14/04/99	07/12/98
BT Group plc (I)	5.91m (5.25m)	0.50m (0.25m)	2.1p (1.29p)	1.25p (-)	22/01/99	07/12/98
British Aerospace Systems (I)	3.50m (2.25m)	0.140m (0.242m)	0.74p (1.29p)	0.14p (0.14p)	22/01/99	07/12/98
BPW International (I)	167.63m (30.97m) (14.08m)	11.32m (10.70m)	11.28p (10.68p)	2.68p (2.43p)	22/01/99	07/12/98
Granada Group (F)	3.08m (3.24m)	77.3m (65.0m)	60.3p (53.4p)	16.7p (14.5p)	01/04/99	04/01/99
Johnson Matthey (I)	1.753m (1.347m)	63.2m (50.2m)	57.0p (52.2p)	5.70p (5.2p)	01/02/99	07/12/98
Karenza Construction Corp (I)	10.02m (15.25m)	2.02m (2.02m)	7.71p (6.08p)	0.77p (0.77p)	01/04/99	07/12/98
National Power (I)	1.352m (1.458m)	2.17m (2.00m)	14.2p (17.1p)	9.4p (9.0p)	06/04/99	07/12/98
HPF (I)	25.35m (11.61m)	7.77m (3.23m)	9.10p (5.25p)	8.40p (2.5p)	09/04/99	07/12/98
Providence Resources (I)	16.16m (16.00m)	-0.670m (-)	-23.0p (-)	-1.25p (-)	-	-
Radiant Technology (I)*	10.03m (10.03m)	-0.740m (-1.17m)	-1.15p (-7.09p)	-1.15p (-)	-	-
Repsol (I)	10.83m (10.83m)	-1.57m (-1.11m)	-0.86p (-5.36p)	-0.86p (-)	-	-
Tele & Datacom (F)	4.44m (4.45m)	1.55m (4m) (59.3m)	27.4p (22.5p)	1.15p (-)	06/04/99	07/12/98
Victor (I)	17.1m (12.77m)	0.472m (0.02m)	4.61p (0.02p)	0.60p (-)	-	-
(F) - First (I) - Interim *After exceptional						

Enhance your performance with HP's new range of colour printers.



Running a business is like running a race. It's much easier to stay ahead of the competition if you start off with an unfair advantage.

A new HP Color LaserJet 8500 series printer, for instance. More powerful and more flexible than a sprinter's ankle.

Or the new HP Color LaserJet 4500. World Class quality with a decidedly amateur price tag.

Last but not least, there's the new HP 2000 Professional series. An inkjet that leaves every other inkjet standing. Perfect full-colour documents ready before you can say 'steady' or 'go'.

The results speak for themselves. One American Insurance Company managed to slash their debt collection time in half, simply by printing their invoices in red.

See? No one can ignore a colour document.

And thanks to HP, you don't have to anymore. We've just removed all the hurdles that were standing in your way. www.hp.com or 0990 47 47 47

HP Printers. Paper that works for you.



HEWLETT PACKARD
Expanding Possibilities

KING OF strange new business, I noticed a number of the latest edition of the *Dictionary of Finance & Money* - management, that is - urgent problems that planning to avoid them, write, however, is: "Garbage study of the contents of dustbins to analyse the position patterns of household

SECURITIES Institute - & Paul Cattermull to be

director of its training as training next Monday. The role is being taken up by a lot of the Singapore, Hong Kong, & Ukraine and other markets which are seeking an equivalent professional

& Cattermull will leave any

time, however, to his pos

as consultant to the insti

tute. Cattermull has spent his

private client asset manag

ing the Army and busi

s. After a stint with Schle

der Hamlyn asked him to

asset management busi

ness in 1987, quite a depar

ment from his former

investment manage

ment, and he moved to Hill

Hill Samuels sold its pa

t of asset business to Lloyds

Banking this year he was

in loose end. He knows his

executive Geoffrey In

however - they were a

part of the Association of Pr

of Investment Manage

ment Brokers (Aipims) toge

ther.

He's got a

good record

in business, like running

it much easier to stay ahead

opposition if you stay off the

overhang.

HP Color LaserJet 5500 we

for instance. More powerful

and reliable than any printer available

now. HP Color LaserJet 600

has quality with a decidedly

price tag.

not least, there's the new

of Professional series. And it's

ever, even other inkjet printer

HP colour documents are

you can buy already or go

to speak for the machines

there are insurance compa

nd to stand their debt collec

tion, simple, low printing cost

and a colour

inkjet printer

that can print

paper that works for you

the paper that works for you

Insurers lead the financial retreat

FINANCIAL STOCKS saw red yesterday as investors cashed in on the recent good run. After heady weeks dominated by the talk of a blockbuster merger between Halifax and Prudential and of the sale of Guardian Royal Exchange, dealers decided to take a breather and lock in some profits.

The insurers led the retreat. Legal & General was the biggest casualty, shedding more than 4 per cent to 725p, the third biggest faller in the Footsie. Royal & Sun Alliance was another 4 per cent lower, closing at 496.5p. CGU was down 40.5p to 889.5p, after it did not beware of Greeks bearing gifts and bought Royal & Sun's Athenian insurance operations for £3.6m.

The Pru still longed for a Halifax marriage, fell 26p to 876p.

The banks were not to be outdone by their insurance cousins. Abbey National, down 31p to 1,286p and Lloyds TSB, 20.5p lower at 854.5p, bore the brunt of profit taking.

Alliance & Leicester followed the trend and fell 8p to 912p.

The survivors were few and far between. Royal Bank of Scotland put on more than 3 per cent to 936p

MARKET REPORT



FRANCESCO GUERRERA

as broker Credit Lyonnais said "buy" and set a short-term target of 1,000p. Two of the classic low-risk, big price-swings financials were also in profit. Schroders was the second biggest riser in the blue-chip index, posting a 63p gain to 1,258p, while Sun Life & P&G put on 41p to 932p.

The profit-taking that hit the money stocks was also behind Footsie's fall. An opening loss on Wall Street and sluggish trading after the upward spurt at the beginning of the week did the rest. The main index

ended 43 easier at 5,755.3 - ignoring news of the United Kingdom's largest ever trade deficit - after spending most of the day in negative territory.

The medium cap had a dull day ending 2.5 better off at 4926.4, after swinging in a minuscule 9-point arc. The small cap finished 2.5 lower at 2,062.2.

The Footsie losers included Sainsbury 4.4 per cent after BT Alex Brown downgraded its recommendation ahead of today's results. BT was 34.5p lower to 828p after Brussels confirmed that it would launch a deep-in-trust anti-trust probe into its tie-up with AT&T. Among the winners, Billiton, the mining giant, dug up a 1p gain after a huge buy order believed to be the tail-end of a tax-related deal.

Hoteles booked in a good performance. Granada, the Travelodge-to-television group, was the instigator: A set of better-than-expected interims, the pledge of double-digit profit growth over the next three years and a solid hotels showing propelled the shares 4.3 per cent higher to 910p. Ladbrokes, the bookmaker which owns Hilton hotels,

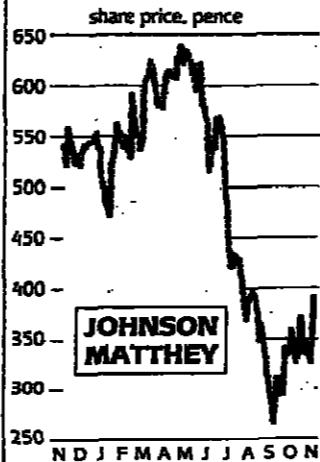
built on the rival's gains and raced up the Footsie's leader board with a near 9 per cent gain to 246.5p. Ladbrokes' jump was aided by whispers that one big institution had ended a selling spree which had depressed

INFOBANK AND Vocalis, two small companies providing Internet services, had a field day. Infobank soared 20 per cent to 345p after raising £3.9m through a placing and open offer. The money will be used to market its software for electronic commerce. Vocalis put on 17 per cent to 54.5p after announcing talks with internet provider UUNet to trial a product that allows use of the Internet through telephone voice commands.

the price recently. Thistle, up 5p to 135p, and Stakis, up 3.5p to 105p, completed the sector's poker.

Among the undercards, Tate & Lyle, up 29p to 402p, sweetened analysts with a set of better-than-expected results. Johnson Matthey, the

SHARE SPOTLIGHT



SOURCE: Bloomberg

The electronics group Astec surged an electrifying 11.8 per cent to 84p, following news of a £265m bid from Emerson electric, its long-time suitor. WS Atkins, the consulting engineer, continued its recent

WATERFALL HOLDINGS, the snooker and bowling balls operator, rose almost 11 per cent to 66p on the back of renewed bid rumours. Dealers are whispering of an imminent 85p-per-share bid. However, European Leisure which sparked similar speculation earlier this year when it increased its stake to 25 per cent, is not believed to be the stalkers. Allied Leisure, another big bowling outfit, is now the market's hot tip.

plunge with a 10 per cent collapse to 45p, as the market fretted about the wisdom of its bid for Bovis, the construction arm of P&G.

Among the more speculative bid plays, Marley, the building materials group, rose 9.6 per cent

to 85.5p as a mystery predator was said to be circling it. Weir, the engineer, rose 3 per cent to 225.5p, on persistent talk of a 300p-a-share bid.

Profit warnings and bearish statements claimed some victims. National Power suffered a 22p black-out to 533p after baffling analysts with the decision to sell its best power station and expressing caution on the earnings outlook.

CML Microsystems shed 33.4 per cent to 83.5p after warning that depressed semiconductor prices would slash profits. Hi-Tech, the sport shoe-maker, slipped 22 per cent to 18p after predicting a first-half loss. Banner Chemicals, down 21.7 per cent to 5p was also victim of a cautious statement.

Oils were depressed by the uncertainty over the size of the production cuts to be sanctioned by Opec. Premier lost 6.5 per cent to 21.75p. British Borneo shed 9.5p to 169p, while Enterprise Oil fell 10p to 34.5p.

SEAG VOLUME: 864.3 million

SEAG TRADES: 61,900

GILTS INDEX: m/a

GRANADA: AT A GLANCE

Market value: £8.25bn, share price 910p (+37p)

Trading record 94 95 96 97 98

Full year to 31 September

Turnover (£bn) 2.10 2.38 3.82 4.09 4.03

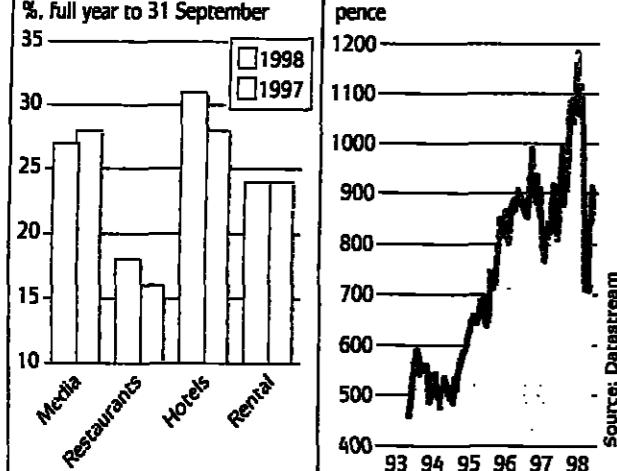
Pre-tax profits (£m) 265 351 405 661 773

Earnings per share (p) 33.6 41.3 37.0 53.6 60.9

Dividends per share (p) 10.0 11.75 13.00 14.50 16.70

Operating margin %, full year to 31 September

Share price pence



Investment: Defensive strategy in leisure and media wards off economic downturn

Granada profits overturn fears

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

that the company maintains for each of its four divisions.

Charles Allen, Granada's chief executive, said: "We are confident in achieving double-digit profit increases for each of the next three years."

"We have strong defensive businesses that will enable us to outperform the slowing economy," Gerry Robinson, the chairman, said, as Granada reported an 18 per cent increase in operating profits to £970m before exceptional items. Turnover from continuing businesses rose 10 per cent to £3.98bn.

The media, hotel and restaurant divisions all managed profit increases of 15 per cent or more. The only disappointment was the television rental division, where changes to insurance tax reduced profits by 15 per cent.

At the same time, Granada for the first time lifted the veil on the detailed three-year plan.

The statement was also seen as a signal by Granada that it does not need to make a major acquisition in order to keep growing. Even so, the group's high-profile hostile bid for the Forte hotel chain in 1995, investors have assumed that it was only a matter of time before Mr Allen can hit his target.

The statement was also seen as a signal by Granada that it does not need to make a major acquisition in order to keep growing. Even so, the group's high-profile hostile bid for the Forte hotel chain in 1995, investors have assumed that it was only a matter of time before Mr Allen can hit his target.

Reporting a 31 per cent fall in profits to £167m for the year to September, Sir David said: "Last year was self-evidently disappointing for Tate & Lyle. Our aim is to ensure that 1997/98 represents the trough."

Robinson turned his mind to another deal. Yesterday, he hinted his main interest was in taking Sutcliffe, the contract catering division, into overseas markets. But sizeable acquisitions are hard to come by in that arena.

City analysts are not concerned by Granada's lack of corporate activity. "They still have a lot of mileage in their current range," Mr Robinson said.

Meanwhile, Mr Robinson also ruled out the possibility of a demerger of the media and

hotels businesses – a move that has been mooted several times.

"The idea that splitting a company up is a universal recipe for success has been proved false," Mr Robinson said, adding it was "very unlikely" that Granada would break up in the foreseeable future.

The three-year plan shows that Granada has ambitious ideas for its main businesses. On the media side, Granada hopes to expand ITV ratings

and boost advertising revenues. Meanwhile, Mr Allen said ONdigital, the group's joint venture with Carlton Communications, would create a "major force in pay television" by adding new channels, pay-per-view and interactive services.

In hospitality, the group will build new motorway service stations while developing its Little Chef and Travelodge businesses. It wants Posthouse to become the leading brand in the mid-market hotel range, while its Heritage range will be repositioned as affordable hotels while also catering for conferences and executive meetings.

Mr Allen pointed out that the company's relatively fixed cost base meant any growth in turnover would have a disproportionate effect on profits.

"With businesses like ours, you can grow the turnover by 4 per cent and most of that will drop straight through to the bottom line," he said.

Tate & Lyle's promise boosts price

SHARES IN Tate & Lyle jumped 8 per cent to 402p yesterday when the company's new chairman, Sir David Lee, promised to turn around the company's fortunes following what he called an "unacceptable" year.

Reporting a 31 per cent fall in profits to £167m for the year to September, Sir David said: "Last year was self-evidently disappointing for Tate & Lyle. Our aim is to ensure that 1997/98 represents the trough."

BY ANDREW VERITY

Brokers were encouraged by news that a much-delayed starch plant in Nesle, France, would be running at full capacity by early next year.

Sir David, formerly with the engineering group GKN, was appointed chairman two months ago after a difficult year for Tate which included a string of exceptional costs.

Income fell sharply because

of narrow margins at the company's Staley subsidiary, which makes high-fructose corn syrup for use in soft drinks. This was compounded by a beef disease in North America, costing £20m, and weak prices for starch in Europe. Confidence in the management was undermined by an incident known as the "Great Greek Grain Robbery", in which a Greek subsidiary delivered £10m of grain but was never paid.

Simon Gifford, finance di-

rector, said the company was setting a new target for return on net operating assets of 15 per cent. He added: "The dividend will be maintained in real terms as an absolute minimum."

Analysts are now pinning their hopes on Sir David's influence. David Lang of Henderson Crosthwaite said: "These shares were completely clapped out... But the company is making the right noises to sort out the share price problem."

Citibank Presents Elton John - The 1998 World Tour.

Free Internet banking. Get more from your keyboard.



A Citibank Current Account gives you free Internet banking and more:

- 10 times more interest than at least 4 major UK banks*
- Free banking - no charges for everyday transactions in the UK
- Free £500 overdraft
- Free instant withdrawals at any of the 18,000 cashpoints in the UK

Plus, you can call us 24 hours a day - free - giving you access to your finances round the clock around the world.

Find us on <http://www.citibank.co.uk>

or call on 0800 00 88 00

Please quote ref: 1016

Who Says A Bank Can't Rock & Roll?

CITIBANK

*Please note: Interest rate comparison (as at November 1998) between Citibank Current Account and Barclays Bank Account, Midland Bank Account, First Direct Cheque Account and NatWest Current Plus Account. Rate is variable, calculated daily, and is the gross p.a. rate on balances of £2,000 or more. Gross interest rate is the rate payable, not taking into account any deductions for Income Tax at the lower rates. Interest is applied and compounded monthly (Barclays quarterly). Overdraft subject to status with written credit quotation available on request and is only available if you pay salary into Account. Free Internet banking does not include the cost of modern calls. Account opened with Citibank International plc, subject to eligibility. Registered office: 336 Strand, London WC2R 1HB. ® Registered trademark of Citibank NA.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Country	Sterling Spot	1 month	3 month	Dollar Spot	1 month	3 month	D-Mark Spot
UK	1.0000	2.5952	2.5903	0.6019	0.6028	0.6042	0.3533
Australia	2.5991	108.26	107.98	1.5643	1.5644	1.5649	0.9182
Austria	1.3753	14.18	14.09	1.7985	1.7987	1.7988	1.0924
Belgium	1.3748	58.232	58.195	31.952	31.952	31.952	20.2165
Canada	2.5649	7.5610	7.5540	1.5438	1.5438	1.5438	0.9061
Denmark	10.763	10.741	10.695	6.4780	6.4746	6.4638	3.8022
Ireland	1.3753	14.18	14.09	1.7985	1.7987	1.7988	1.0924
Italy	8.5053	8.5814	8.5777	0.5377	0.5377	0.5377	0.3289
Japan	9.492	9.465	9.416	5.7128	5.7052	5.6889	3.3531
Germany	2.5195	2.6026	2.6082	1.7038	1.7015	1.6970	1.0000
Greece	4.7167	47.179	46.980	2.9619	2.9524	2.9474	1.6775
Hong Kong	12.863	12.846					

at

A mystery predator was circling it. Were the en-
emy's 2 per cent to 25.5 per cent on the stalk of a 300-share share?

warnings and bearish
claims claimed some victims.
Power suffered a 29 per cent to 15.5 per cent after banting off the decision to sell its station and expressing in the earnings outlook.

Microsystems shed 34.1 per cent to 65.5p after warning pressed semiconductor

sawn-off profits. Hi-Tech

shoe-maker slipped 20 per

cent after predicting a first-quarter chemicals down-

turn to 60 was also victim

of its statement.

Even depressed by the

size of the pro-

jects to be sanctioned by

the minister lost 6.5 per cent to 61.900.

Enterprise Oil fell 10 per

cent to 10.500.

OLUME: \$84.3 million

RADES: 61,900

INDEX: m/a

downturn

ars

id-market hotel range, which's Heritage range will be re-
tained as affordable hot-
els also catering for con-
ferences and executive meetings.

Mr Allen pointed out that his company's relatively fixed costs meant any growth in turnover would have a disproportionate effect on profit.

With businesses like ours, as we grow the turnover will go up per cent and most of that profit straight through to the

ax line," he said.

ts price

ector, said the company is setting a new target for its net operating assets of £100m. He added: "The directors will be maintained at a an absolute minimum."

Analysts are now positive about his David Lang of Hotelwatch said: "These figures were completely clapped up by the company is making light noises to sort out the service problem."

RATES

1.5000 1.4500 1.4000 1.3500 1.3000 1.2500 1.2000 1.1500 1.1000 1.0500 1.0000 0.9500 0.9000 0.8500 0.8000 0.7500 0.7000 0.6500 0.6000 0.5500 0.5000 0.4500 0.4000 0.3500 0.3000 0.2500 0.2000 0.1500 0.1000 0.0500 0.0000

LDS

1.0000 0.9500 0.9000 0.8500 0.8000 0.7500 0.7000 0.6500 0.6000 0.5500 0.5000 0.4500 0.4000 0.3500 0.3000 0.2500 0.2000 0.1500 0.1000 0.0500 0.0000

LIBRATES

1.0000 0.9500 0.9000 0.8500 0.8000 0.7500 0.7000 0.6500 0.6000 0.5500 0.5000 0.4500 0.4000 0.3500 0.3000 0.2500 0.2000 0.1500 0.1000 0.0500 0.0000

SOURCE: Bloomberg

METALS

1.0000 0.9500 0.9000 0.8500 0.8000 0.7500 0.7000 0.6500 0.6000 0.5500 0.5000 0.4500 0.4000 0.3500 0.3000 0.2500 0.2000 0.1500 0.1000 0.0500 0.0000

ALUMINUM

1.0000 0.9500 0.9000 0.8500 0.8000 0.7500 0.7000 0.6500 0.6000 0.5500 0.5000 0.4500 0.4000 0.3500 0.3000 0.2500 0.2000 0.1500 0.1000 0.0500 0.0000

COAL

1.0000 0.9500 0.9000 0.8500 0.8000 0.7500 0.7000 0.6500 0.6000 0.5500 0.5000 0.4500 0.4000 0.3500 0.3000 0.2500 0.2000 0.1500 0.1000 0.0500 0.0000

CRUDE OIL

1.0000 0.9500 0.9000 0.8500 0.8000 0.7500 0.7000 0.6500 0.6000 0.5500 0.5000 0.4500 0.4000 0.3500 0.3000 0.2500 0.2000 0.1500 0.1000 0.0500 0.0000

NIQUEL

1.0000 0.9500 0.9000 0.8500 0.8000 0.7500 0.7000 0.6500 0.6000 0.5500 0.5000 0.4500 0.4000 0.3500 0.3000 0.2500 0.2000 0.1500 0.1000 0.0500 0.0000

PLATINUM

1.0000 0.9500 0.9000 0.8500 0.8000 0.7500 0.7000 0.6500 0.6000 0.5500 0.5000 0.4500 0.4000 0.3500 0.3000 0.2500 0.2000 0.1500 0.1000 0.0500 0.0000

TAUPE

1.0000 0.9500 0.9000 0.8500 0.8000 0.7500 0.7000 0.6500 0.6000 0.5500 0.5000 0.4500 0.4000 0.3500 0.3000 0.2500 0.2000 0.1500 0.1000 0.0500 0.0000

WORLDOIL

1.0000 0.9500 0.9000 0.8500 0.8000 0.7500 0.7000 0.6500 0.6000 0.5500 0.5000 0.4500 0.4000 0.3500 0.3000 0.2500 0.2000 0.1500 0.1000 0.0500 0.0000

ZINC

1.0000 0.9500 0.9000 0.8500 0.8000 0.7500 0.7000 0.6500 0.6000 0.5500 0.5000 0.4500 0.4000 0.3500 0.3000 0.2500 0.2000 0.1500 0.1000 0.0500 0.0000

ZINC

1.0000 0.9500 0.9000 0.8500 0.8000 0.7500 0.7000 0.6500 0.6000 0.5500 0.5000 0.4500 0.4000 0.3500 0.3000 0.2500 0.2000 0.1500 0.1000 0.0500 0.0000

ZINC

1.0000 0.9500 0.9000 0.8500 0.8000 0.7500 0.7000 0.6500 0.6000 0.5500 0.5000 0.4500 0.4000 0.3500 0.3000 0.2500 0.2000 0.1500 0.1000 0.0500 0.0000

ZINC

1.0000 0.9500 0.9000 0.8500 0.8000 0.7500 0.7000 0.6500 0.6000 0.5500 0.5000 0.4500 0.4000 0.3500 0.3000 0.2500 0.2000 0.1500 0.1000 0.0500 0.0000

ZINC

1.0000 0.9500 0.9000 0.8500 0.8000 0.7500 0.7000 0.6500 0.6000 0.5500 0.5000 0.4500 0.4000 0.3500 0.3000 0.2500 0.2000 0.1500 0.1000 0.0500 0.0000

ZINC

1.0000 0.9500 0.9000 0.8500 0.8000 0.7500 0.7000 0.6500 0.6000 0.5500 0.5000 0.4500 0.4000 0.3500 0.3000 0.2500 0.2000 0.1500 0.1000 0.0500 0.0000

ZINC

1.0000 0.9500 0.9000 0.8500 0.8000 0.7500 0.7000 0.6500 0.6000 0.5500 0.5000 0.4500 0.4000 0.3500 0.3000 0.2500 0.2000 0.1500 0.1000 0.0500 0.0000

ZINC

1.0000 0.9500 0.9000 0.8500 0.8000 0.7500 0.7000 0.6500 0.6000 0.5500 0.5000 0.4500 0.4000 0.3500 0.3000 0.2500 0.2000 0.1500 0.1000 0.0500 0.0000

ZINC

1.0000 0.9500 0.9000 0.8500 0.8000 0.7500 0.7000 0.6500 0.6000 0.5500 0.5000 0.4500 0.4000 0.3500 0.3000 0.2500 0.2000 0.1500 0.1000 0.0500 0.0000

ZINC

1.0000 0.9500 0.9000 0.8500 0.8000 0.7500 0.7000 0.6500 0.6000 0.5500 0.5000 0.4500 0.4000 0.3500 0.3000 0.2500 0.2000 0.1500 0.1000 0.0500 0.0000

ZINC

1.0000 0.9500 0.9000 0.8500 0.8000 0.7500 0.7000 0.6500 0.6000 0.5500 0.5000 0.4500 0.4000 0.3500 0.3000 0.2500 0.2000 0.1500 0.1000 0.0500 0.0000

ZINC

1.0000 0.9500 0.9000 0.8500 0.8000 0.7500 0.7000 0.6500 0.6000 0.5500 0.5000 0.4500 0.4000 0.3500 0.3000 0.2500 0.2000 0.1500 0.1000 0.0500 0.0000

ZINC

1.0000 0.9500 0.9000 0.8500 0.8000 0.7500 0.7000 0.6500 0.6000 0.5500 0.5000 0.4500 0.4000 0.3500 0.3000 0.2500 0.2000 0.1500 0.1000 0.0500 0.0000

ZINC

1.0000 0.9500 0.9000 0.8500 0.8000 0.7500 0.7000 0.6500 0.6000 0.5500 0.5000 0.4500 0.4000 0.3500 0.3000 0.2500 0.2000 0.1500 0.1000 0.0500 0.0000

ZINC

1.0000 0.9500 0.9000 0.8500 0.8000 0.7500 0.7000 0.6500 0.6000 0.5500 0.5000 0.4500 0.4000 0.3500 0.3000 0.2500 0.2000 0.1500 0.1000 0.0500 0.0000

ZINC

1.0000 0.9500 0.9000 0.8500 0.8000 0.7500 0.7000 0.6500 0.6000 0.5500 0.5000 0.4500 0.4000 0.3500 0.3000 0.2500 0.2000 0.1500 0.1000 0.0500 0.0000

ZINC

1.0000 0.9500 0.9000 0.8500 0.8000 0.7500 0.7000 0.6500 0.6000 0.5500 0.5000 0.4500 0.4000 0.3500 0.3000 0.2500 0.2000 0.1500 0.1000 0.0500 0.0000

ZINC

1.0000 0.9500 0.9000 0.8500 0.8000 0.7500 0.7000 0.6500 0.6000 0.5500 0.5000 0.4500 0.4000 0.3500 0.3000 0.2500 0.2000 0.1500 0.1000 0.0500 0.0000

ZINC

1.0000 0.9500 0.9000 0.8500 0.8000 0.7500 0.7000 0.6500 0.6000 0.5500 0.5000 0.4500 0.4000 0.35

SPORT

Playing standards are the highest ever but falling sponsorship and an ongoing civil war threatens the game's future

Dark tale of snooker and strife

BY GUY HODGSON

TODAY A cameo will be played out which will illustrate the dark depths snooker is currently exploring. A white-haired, 61-year-old man will arrive at the Liverpool Victoria UK Championships and immediately be monitored by security guards. He can only go to the BBC commentary box and then leave. He cannot visit a cafe, the bar or the press room or take a swim even though the Bournemouth International Centre has leisure facilities.

The man is not a spy or a saboteur but Clive Everton, a journalist and commentator who has been the chief chronicler, an evangelist even, of the sport for 27 years. His crime, according to the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association, is a series of articles that have questioned the wisdom and integrity of the governing body. Hence the restrictions.

Everton, it ought to be added here, is snooker correspondent of this paper's sister publication, the *Independent on Sunday*, but this is not an examination of the rights and wrongs of his case. His treatment is a symptom of a civil war raging through snooker not the cause. A conflict that threatens the future of the sport.

On the table things could hardly be better. Television viewing figures are holding up so well the BBC has abandoned its policy of placing it in the nether regions of the schedules (the final frames of the UK Championship will be shown live on Sunday) and playing standards are undeniably higher than ever.

"In my heyday I played a man in the first round who potted like he had two broken arms," Steve Davis, the 41-year-old six-times world champion, said quantifying the improvement. "and it wasn't until the quarter-finals that I entertained the thought of losing. Now you turn up and straight out of the traps you are up against a kid who has made five 147s in practice the previous day and who doesn't give a damn about your reputation."

The game is fine, thriving even; it is away from the baize and bright lights that the mood deteriorates. A sport that can command television figures that comfortably outstrip Wimbledon and the Open Golf Championship ought to have companies falling over themselves to sponsor tournaments, but snooker is down to five - Embassy, Benson and Hedges, Regal, Rothmans and Liverpool Victoria. Compare that to the 34 who poured money in between 1986 and 1990 and you can appreciate the decline.

That inevitably means smaller prizes and the winner at the Bournemouth International Centre on Sunday will get £75,000, £5,000 less than Doug Mountjoy received when he won the UK Championship, snooker's second most important title, 10 years ago.

A year ago Rex Williams attributed the lack of corporate backing to internal squabbling within the WPBSA, but since he reassumed the chairmanship in March 1997 the arguments have got louder and more bitter. Last December the chief executive, Jim McKenzie, was dismissed and will pursue a case of wrongful dismissal in the courts on 11 January; in the summer the head of media relations, Bruce Beckett, and the long-standing tournament director, Ann Yates, left; in June three former world champions, Steve Davis, Terry Griffiths and Dennis Taylor, unsuccessfully pursued a vote of no confidence in the board.

There are other issues, including an ongoing dispute with Benson and Hedges over the alleged behaviour of the WPBSA company secretary, Martyn Blake, at two dinner parties, and relations with the media have become so strained



Clive Everton, commentating at Bournemouth, is confined to the television gantry because of restrictions following articles which questioned the wisdom and integrity of snooker's governing body Peter Joy

Davis fights 'boardroom amateurs'

Former world champion seeks solution to a power struggle. By Guy Hodgson

that Radio Five Live refuse to carry voice reports from Bournemouth and the Snooker Writers' Association has been re-formed because of alarm at the way the sport is being run. The atmosphere is close to poison.

McKenzie's dismissal is seen as the flashpoint in the great war that has followed. In simple terms - and very little is simple in this conflict - it is a difference over whether snooker should be run by professionals or the combination of former players

Thorne, and there was enough of the rank and file with them to defeat June's no-confidence motion by four votes.

The sadness is that it has pitted former friends against each other, which does not bode well for a whole-some atmosphere in the future no matter who is successful. "What upsets me with all the fighting over the years," Taylor, the 1985 champion, said, "is that the guys on the board, people like Bob Close, Rex and Jim Meadowcroft, are great pals of mine. This is not a personal attack, we just feel snooker is not going anywhere."

"It's not about egos, but saving the game. I've had a great living from snooker, I've travelled the world, and it would be nice to think today's youngsters will get the same chance as I did. But that prospect looks doubtful at the moment."

Last week a committee looking

into the constitution of the WPBSA published an interim report that recommended the creation of two subsidiary companies to run the commercial affairs of snooker and billiards and be answerable to a new board of 10 members. It is a compromise and might win approval but no one is holding their breath.

Snooker's experience over many years is that conflict is easier to locate than solutions. We are not watching a sport committing suicide, it is too established for that, but it is indulging in self-mutilation.

Snooker has many grievances at the moment but the one most pertinent hits the pocket. This has

manifested itself most notably in the lack of sponsors for tournaments and a drop in prize-money. Get those right and the rest might just might, clear themselves up.

"Sponsorship is a funny thing and sports go in and out of fashion," Davis said, "but I think snooker's here to stay and I think we are failing to get our foot in the door of bigger companies. We haven't got the right chief executive who can talk to these people at the proper level. Snooker players pot balls, the atmosphere, he says, "has not been pleasant".

Davis has been provoked into action because he believes snooker has become too big to be handled by former players. "My chief problem is that we have had amateurs in the boardroom who have made decisions which make them look like incompetents," he said. "Which is unfair because all the people who have been on the board for generations have had the game's interest at heart. But if they appear that way your problems start."

Snooker has many grievances at the moment but the one most pertinent hits the pocket. This has

spend their lives training to do that, it's unfair to expect them to do more. They are not good in the boardroom or as salesmen. We have never given people from business a proper chance of having an interest in our game and it has to be tried."

Davis can at least see some light in the interim report published last week by the WPBSA's constitutional review committee which proposes wholesale changes to the game's government structure, setting up businesses to run snooker and bil-

liards that will report to a reconstructed board. "If those proposals were given a chance they could be the answer because the board as we know it would relinquish power anyway," he said.

"I don't know if the report will be accepted, but it could be a way forward as it will cut through the problems that have upset the players: the them-and-us situation and the lack of business acumen. At the same time, control will be retained by the players. Hopefully the board will think that way, too."

The WPBSA and their chairman, Rex Williams, preferred not to discuss the current situation. "No interviews or comments will be made by the association regarding any political matters in our sport while the Liverpool Victoria UK Championship is taking place," a statement read. "In order that our sponsors, players and the public can enjoy this prestigious tournament without any external distractions."

"Should anyone else associated with our sport wish to risk losing a loyal and valued sponsor by making political comments at this time there is nothing we can do to stop them. Though this, of course, would be absurd and reckless and is something that would be pointed out to our members."



Head to head: Steve Davis (left) and chairman Rex Williams

Tremors suggest a football earthquake lies ahead

WITH A cigar in one hand and a Scotch in the other, a man who has my affection and respect was going on about how it feels personally to be around a sporting era when every week seems to bring fresh evidence of instability. "This may be carrying things a bit far," he said, "but I imagine it's like living in an earthquake zone, feeling a tremor beneath your feet and fearing that a disaster is about to happen."

The tremors felt in English football this week, and nobody should take them lightly, spread from the sale of two Premier League players, Andy Impey from West Ham to Leicester and Duncan Ferguson from Everton to Newcastle, against the wishes of the team managers. In Ferguson's case, it appears



KEN JONES

that a £7m deal was put through without prior consultation with Everton's manager, Walter Smith, raising the thought that his position is now untenable. Harry Redknapp

knew about West Ham's decision to sell Impey but there was nothing he could do to prevent it happening.

These deals have told us something about the financial situation in English football to which the majority of supporters are oblivious and give no second thought when calling belligerently for changes in personnel.

The truth, and a hard truth it is for their supporters to swallow, is that the majority of clubs in the Premier League are facing up to the difficulties caused by salary escalation, exaggerated transfer values and contractual obligations to players who are no longer serving any useful purpose.

By way of relief from the screaming meemies induced by television

hyperbole, I spend some time talking to people in sport who can be relied on for objective appraisal. All agree that sport, especially football, is on dangerous ground and that there may be a day up ahead when the tremors we are feeling now develop into a financial catastrophe.

"It's often said these days that football has never been more fashionable, and I suppose that's a fact," one of them said, "but the one sure thing about fashion is that it changes."

It's anybody's guess how close we are to upheaval but the time cannot be far off when sport falls completely into the hands of entrepreneurs who hold no respect for its traditions and ancient values.

Earlier this week I spoke with a

former rugby union international of 37 years) since footballers in England had no say in their personal futures and were restricted to a maximum wage of £20 per week. They can ridicule the old Football League's refusal to allow their champions into Europe on the archaic grounds that it would be detrimental to domestic competition.

What they can't argue, however, is that football, and sport generally, has lost nothing through modernisation. In moments of idleness, when I'm trying to work up some creative thought, I sometimes think about football as it was before agents came along to devalue

them than the heads of corporations, to play a game. A pretty safe bet is that not many allow that consideration to intrude upon their musings.

In the light of events at West Ham and Everton, it's probably just beginning to occur to followers of football that the prime consideration of most clubs is now financial stability.

From Redknapp's remarks in newspapers and television he feels that West Ham's decision to accept Leicester's offer for Impey was a blow to his authority over the team. Sympathy can be held out for Redknapp. But the way things are going his experience is something football managers will have to live with. Either that or seek alternative employment.

shire may block

Rodber ready to lock horns with best

THE ENGLAND selectors were always likely to wield the big stick after watching their team fumble their way around Buderfield with a white one last Sunday and, sure enough, Clive Woodward and his fellow wise men yesterday made four changes to the line-up for this weekend's revenge mission against Australia at Twickenham. Out go Dan Leger, Gareth Archer, Ben Clarke and Martin Corry; back come Lawrence Dallaglio, Richard Hill, Tony Underwood and, most significantly, Tim Rodber, who effectively launches himself on a new career as an international lock after winning 22 red roses as a loose forward.

"By way of warming up his

RUGBY UNION
By CHRIS HEWETT

charges for the battle ahead – and they are not short of things for which to fight, given the record 76 points they leaked when they last shared a pitch with the Wallabies – John Mitchell, the assistant coach, decided the time had come to stop the small talk and tell it how it is. Or, rather, tell it how it was: "God, we were bad against Italy last Sunday," he said, his All Black eyes aglow with indignation.

"We were dull, we were boring, we were conservative. We must be the easiest team in the world to defend against; I know

I wouldn't need too many hours in front of the video to work out where we were coming from. I'll tell you something else: I wouldn't have paid 30 quid to watch that rubbish. It's time we started delivering. There has been too much talk, too many excuses and too few results. We have to rise to the standard on Saturday. We have no choice."

Point taken. The burning question surrounds the wisdom, or otherwise, of asking Rodber to reinvent himself in such close proximity to John Eales and Tom Bowman, who undoubtedly constitute the best second-row combination in world rugby. Rodber has been around comfortably long enough to know what's what on

a Test paddock – he won his first cap under Geoff Cooke and Will Carling way back in 1992, when men were men and line-out jumpers had to fend for themselves – but this is still an almighty ask, as the Wallabies would say.

"We've been thinking about this for the last 12 months and the time to find out whether you're right or wrong is against a side like Australia rather than some second-rate side incapable of asking the really hard questions," said Woodward, whose tenure as head coach has been marked by a desire to dismantle England's traditional tight game in favour of some zip and pizzazz. "I think this move has real potential; Tim is an experienced international and, besides, he will have a lot more experience around him. We need to find out if he can cope and I don't want to be wondering still when we get to the World Cup."

Privately, Woodward believes he is nearing the end of his period of experimentation; indeed, Rodber may be the last man to enter the Twickenham test tube. By the time England open their Five Nations campaign against Scotland at the end of February, the coach expects the full World Cup Monty to be in place. Hence his decision to revert to his favourite back row triumvirate – Dallaglio, Hill and Neil Back – rather than Clarke and

Corry, his most recent additions, would have liked.

"Actually, I'd have gone back to that combination for the World Cup qualifiers against the Netherlands and Italy had Lawrence not been injured," said Woodward. "It's been frustrating not being able to field them as a three for so long. They served England very well indeed against the All Blacks last year but, after the second Five Nations game, Richard was gone for the season. I'm still very excited about the things they might achieve together fit – he's not quite there yet – and I've no hesitation in playing them against the Wallabies."

Underwood's call-up makes him the 14th wing used by

Woodward in a year and, while his supporters will wonder why it took the coach so long to identify their man as the best of a less than vintage bunch, injuries have proved a major obstacle to top-level recognition since the end of the 1997 Lions tour of South Africa, from which he returned with a Test cap and a half bottle of bubbly as joint leading try-plunderer. His return gives the England three-quarter line a more threatening appearance and when David Rees of Sale declares himself fully fit – "he's not quite there for this level of rugby but it won't be long," promised the coach – the back division really will be ready to roll.

But before the pretty boys

can don their skates, the uglies have to front up at the sharp end. Rodber has rattled his fair share of cages in the past, notably against the Springboks in Pretoria four and a half years ago, but never from a work station in the engine room. If he fails to learn on the hoof this weekend, Woodward's best laid plans will splutter to a halt.

ENGLAND (v Australia, Twickenham, Saturday): M Perry (Bath), T Underwood (Leicester), J Garside (Barnsley) (Leicester), P Greenway (Northampton), M Dallaglio (Harlequins), J Lawrence (Leicester), R Williams (Cardiff), S Williams (Leicester), M Johnson (Leicester), T Rodber (Northampton), L Dallaglio (Wasps), capt R Hill (Wasps), D Clark (Leicester), C Eales (Leicester), N Beal (Northampton), M Corry (Bath), D Leger (Harlequins), M Garside (Leicester), D Greenway (Saracens), D Lawrence (Leicester), P Greenwood (Leicester).



A sight England's batsmen can prepare themselves for as Colin Miller appeals for another wicket Allsport

Tourists' chapter of accidents

BY TONY COZIER
in Johannesburg

ONLY PERSUDED to come to South Africa after those tense last-minute negotiations with their board in London over improved pay and conditions, the West Indies cricketers might well be wondering prior to the first Test this morning if it might not have been better to have called the whole thing off.

No sooner had they boarded their flight to Johannesburg, then Jimmy Adams, their season-long left-hand all-rounder, managed to sever tendons in his right hand cutting through an uncooperative bread roll. He has now been ruled out for six weeks and replaced.

On the ground, the leg-spinner, Dizmanath Ramnarine also had his tour ended on Monday by a persistent shoulder injury. While they will take the field today with their two essential, but ageing fast bowlers, Courtney Ambrose and Courtney Walsh, both are woefully short of match practice after recovering from injuries.

The 35-year-old Ambrose had a painful toenail removed soon after arrival. Walsh, 36, was handicapped by tendinitis in the right knee, a mere hindrance he will endure in his 103rd Test in which he needs only two wickets to pass the West Indies Test record of 376 wickets belonging to Malcolm Marshall, now the team coach.

To heighten misgivings that there is a hex on the tour, the West Indies Cricket Board president Pat Rousseau, his wife and the *Jamaica Gleaner* sports editor, Tony Beccas, were robbed by three armed men when a drive through Soweto with a local official yesterday morning ended in one of the car hijackings that have become part of daily life here recently.

They were rescued by other UCB officials on their way to Soweto, a UCB official said. Police in Soweto, the sprawling

black township south-west of Johannesburg, said they were investigating the carjacking, a common crime in the Johannesburg area.

As he had been at the heart

of the emotional impasse with the players during which Brian Lara and the vice-captain, Carl Hooper were sacked and then reinstated, Rousseau has had a rough old time of it late and it is not as if he can seek solace in his team's dressing-room.

Ramnarine would surely

have played in the Test on a straw-coloured pitch that Clive Lloyd described as "very dry". Another leg-spinner, Rawl Lewis, was trying in as a replacement from the current West Indies A tour of India but was expected to arrive only a few hours before the first ball and would not be considered, leaving the traditional attack of four fast bowlers supplemented by the straightforward off-spin of Hooper.

It is not the ideal preparation

for a contest against the fiercely competitive South Africans, who are on home territory and desperately keen to erase the aberration of the summer's setback in England when they lost the series 2-1. They acknowledge only Australia as stronger at present and intend to prove it in the coming two months.

The only negative note for South Africa was sounded yesterday by Mbusi Mbebe, the head of the National Sports Council, who said his organisation was concerned with the fact that there was only one non-white player in the South Africa XII, the 21-year-old Paul Adams. That, at least, is not among the several problems that confront the West Indies.

West Indian possible 12: Brian Lara (captain), Clayton Lambeth, Phil Valentine, Michael Williams, Andrew Murray (wicketkeeper), Nevin McLean, Curly Ambrose, Courtney Walsh, Mervyn Dillon, Dizmanath Ramnarine, Gary Kishan, Adam Baichoo, Jacques Kallis, Darryl Cullinan, Jonny Rhodes, Shane Pollock, Mark Bowler (wicketkeeper), Pat Symonds, Alan Donald, Paul Adams, David Taittinge.

Derbyshire may block Barnett departure

KIM BARNETT'S future with Derbyshire is hanging in the balance after the club refused to release him to play for another county.

Barnett, a former captain, has two years of his current contract to run, but had asked the Derbyshire chairman, Vic Brownell, if he could be released after 20 years at the County Ground.

Barnett originally gave what appeared to be an encouraging response, saying: "We had a talk about his future with the club and he did ask if he decided to move on, would

the club stand in his way. I reported this to the cricket committee and I don't think we would stand in his way if he decided to further his career at this stage of his life, provided it suited both parties."

However, a few hours later the club issued a statement saying that the cricket committee "would not agree to release him should he simply wish to sign a purely playing contract at another county".

Further talks are planned between Barnett and Brownell to decide the former England batsman's future. Both Gloucestershire and Yorkshire have expressed an interest in him. Meanwhile, Derbyshire

members are organising a forum to press for answers about the future of Dominic Cork, who has threatened to quit as captain after claiming that his authority at the club has been undermined. The Derbyshire committee said no decision would be taken until Cork returns to England in February following the Ashes series.

Yorkshire are poised to strengthen their batting by recruiting Somerset's Richard Hadlee. The two-year deal is expected to be completed in the next two weeks.

Miller the mystery man can put on a funky show

WHILE MOST of Australia remains outraged at the dropping of the leg-spinner Stuart MacGill, a few wise coves have been wearing knowing smiles at the selection of Colin Miller for the second Test. For the rest of us, he simply shares a surname with those other notable "Dusties", Keith, Jonathan and Henry.

Miller is rarely friendly to spinners and the pitch at the WACA, while offering bounce, rarely turns. Miller's role, and he is almost certain to play, is to bowl into the Fremantle Doctor, a wind that begins to pay house visits soon after midday. If England are considering making changes, they too must identify which bowlers will turn on this stiff south-wester.

Miller, who is 34, plays for Tasmania and is still a bit of a mystery for those who do not follow the State game. Beginning life as a medium-pacer in the 1980s, he added off-spin to his repertoire after spraining an ankle. Unable to come in of his long run for his club side, Miller wrapped his fingers round the ball instead and off a few paces found he could get the thing to turn sharply.

On the recent tour of Pak-

istan, where he made his Test debut, he both bowled and batted with a common sense that deserted England's lower order in Brisbane. Last summer he broke the Sheffield Shield record with 67 wickets at 24.5 apiece, an incredible tally considering the Shield is

just an 11-match competition.

A country that tends to promote youth in sport, Australia's inclusion of Miller is curious. He is not the oldest player to debut for Australia, that accolade belongs to Don Blackie, who was 46 when he played against England in 1928. Nevertheless, Miller is relatively old, even for a spinner, and his presence may be an indication that Australia's spin cupboard is fairly bare, once you take Shane Warne out of the equation.

Like many spinners, he is something of a nonconformist, at least as modern players go. According to those who know him, he drinks, smokes, and is not too bothered with team talks. A bleached blond – there is less sunshine in Tasmania – he also enjoys night-clubs, where he generally lives up to his nickname of "funky".

In spin mode, he gets, in the words of Ashley Mallett, a

dozen of revolutions on the ball".

As we saw with Muttiah Muralitharan at The Oval, the more the ball rotates the more it dips and spins and Miller may yet extract some turn on the flint-hard pitch at the WACA.

The England coach, David Lloyd, said: "We know why they have not selected MacGill, because history is telling them that leg-spin is not a big option at this place – even Shane Warne hasn't been that successful [at the WACA]."

It is that all-pace policy which may influence England into adopting a similar line-up, with Dean Headley and the

promising Surrey fast bowler Alex Tudor competing for Fraser's place while the inconsistent batting displays could prompt the tourists into including Crawley as a seventh batsman.

The England coach, David

Lloyd, said: "We know why they have not selected MacGill, because history is telling them that leg-spin is not a big option at this place – even Shane Warne hasn't been that successful [at the WACA]."

If England do discard Fraser, Tudor is likely to take his place after impressing in net sessions, although he has bowled only 29 match overs on tour.

You never know, if two-in-one cricketers catch on, he may yet become a household name. Not bad for a player whose career only took off because of a sprained ankle.



Let BT make it simple with Cellnet Business First.

Running your company's mobiles can often mean sorting through statements, call tariffs and free minute options. Now, Cellnet Business First from BT can save you time and hassle with an easy to use business tariff and 24 hour helpline.

Make managing your company mobiles simple.

For your free mobile phone bill audit, call BT on Freephone 0800 800 800, to see how much you could save. Or visit our website at www.bt.com/business

BT
Business FIRST
cellnet

Rusedski poised to replace Agassi

WHEN LEWIS CARROLL wrote *Alice in Wonderland*, he forgot to include a round-robin tennis tournament. As we have seen at the \$3.5m (£2.1m) ATP Tour Championship, the possibilities are endless.

Greg Rusedski, for example, stands to win a minimum \$105,000 and a maximum \$1.35m this week as a substitute for Andre Agassi. The bounties for Britain would be a match between Rusedski and Tim Henman tomorrow, and the chance of the British pair contesting Sunday's final.

Agassi retired injured during his match against the Spaniard Alex Corretja yesterday, but the rules give the American the option of returning and playing his two remaining White Group matches against Marcelo Rios today and Henman tomorrow.

Rusedski was on pins last night waiting for Agassi to make a decision this morning. Earlier, after Rios received the results of an MRI scan on his back, and decided he could play, the British No 2 was preparing to step in for the Chilean.

That would have precluded a match between Henman and Kafelikov in a meaningless round-

TENNIS
By JOHN ROBERTS
in Hanover



Andre Agassi grimaces as he plays a forehand against Alex Corretja before retiring with a back injury in Hanover yesterday

Reuters

robin match on a day trip as a second substitute for the injured Sergi Bruguera (Thomas Muster had already deputised for the injured Rusedski). Wary of further mishap this time the organisers have alerted Albert Costa, of Spain, to the possibility of being called as a second substitute today. Costa, who sprained his back practising with Corretja on Monday, matched shots with the Spaniard until midway through the second set yesterday and decided to call a halt with Corretja leading 5-3, 2-1, 2-1 with a break of serve.

"I hit a swinging volley at 3-3 in the first set, and when I twisted it was just like somebody stuck a knife in me," Agassi said. "Then I had a hard time leaning forward in my traditional return of serve stance. As the match progressed, more things were

becoming difficult. Pretty soon, it got quite pointless."

Agassi said he would be surprised if he played today, but added: "The thing about a back spasm is that it could relax at any time. I've got to make the decision based on me entirely. The next concern is respect for the tournament - not to go out there and stink it up."

Precisely a year ago Agassi,

ranked No 141 in the world, was defeated in the final of a Challenge event in Las Vegas by Germany's Christian Vink. It has been a long, hard road to Hanover for the American, who has raised himself to No 4. ATP TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP (Hanover): A. Corretja (Sp) vs A. Agassi (Us) 5-7, 6-3; P. Sampras (Us) vs C. Moyà (Sp) 6-3, 6-3.

(From 1pm GMT) Corretja v Henman (Gb); M. Rios (Chile) v Agassi; G. Rusedski (Gb); Sampras v K. Kocera (Svk).

Hansell making his mark in Italy

BASKETBALL

By RICHARD TAYLOR

STEVEN HANSELL, Handsworth born but now a transatlantic and continental version of a Brummie, was back in the second city this week to play for England as one of four squad members currently plying their trade with Italian clubs.

Hansell was a member of the Bologna side last season when they won the European Championship. He now plays for the Serie A club Pistoia and is repairing the image in Italy that Englishmen cannot play basketball.

He has some help. Andy Betts, a 7ft 2in Leicester-born centre tipped eventually for the NBA, switched straight from his American college last summer to join Bologna, while Steve Buckland plays for Fabriano. Spencer Dunkley (Avellino) was selected by the England coach, László Nemeth, but did not join the team.

Hansell, a 6ft 4in, 23-year-old guard, said: "I heard before I arrived in Italy that there was no respect for English players, but then English clubs hardly ever play in Europe so it's not surprising."

"I knew right from the start I would have to do extra well to prove myself. But that was exactly the situation I faced when I went to college in the States, so it was nothing new."

Hansell, a former Birmingham Bullet, achieved national TV coverage in America, playing for Illinois State, then, benefiting from the Bosman ruling, going to Bologna on a short-term contract to help them with the league championship and then the European title.

He totalled 22 points in England's wins in warm-up games over Switzerland on Monday and Tuesday - by 80-67 and 84-71 - and made his European Championship debut in last night's game with Denmark in Birmingham before leaving with the squad to play Spain and the Ukraine.

Then it is back to Italy, along with Buckland and Betts. "It's the best league in Europe," said Hansell, "and I aim to stay at the top level there."

3,200 Robert Hale

film, which were complete, his father, Keith, and were offered complete with a guinea Catalogued to sell for between £2,000 and £3,000, the entire collection was knocked down just £1,200.

One observer whispered:

"course, what you've got to offer."

"I'm not a member," he muttered, "so before it left his house, he probably took the plug off."

nd Sheikh
captains

said. "It has the potential to establish itself in equine terms with gold's Ryder."

Team captains will be responsible for teams, which must be made March, with the eligible horses being determined: their ownership as of Jan 1.

RICHARD EDMONDSON

Nap: Lord Richfield
(Uttorner 3.45)
Nb: Nahrawali
(Taunton 2.25)

Points will be awarded to sixth place, with the one receiving 14 points, the one up to the third seven, five points, the horse five points, the fifth place three and the horse one point. Each race will have a field of nine, with races initially selected for entry, one from each category. The top will be the live on BTB conditional.

ine Thyme

Graham Bradley, whose

horse, Sire, will now switch to Retire, will now switch to Andiamo. A few days earlier, Andiamo was one of the horses that didn't support the race with a 0.0% rating, who is at his best at 0.0%. He was forced to switch to 0.1% and The Thyme, which from 0.1 to 0.2 and 0.3, The Facts from 0.1 to 0.2 and 0.3.

Points will be awarded

to sixth place, with the one

receiving 14 points, the one

up to the third seven, five

points, the fifth place three

and the horse one point.

LEADER TRAINERS: M. Potts 108-109 (2016), P. Hobbs 24-25 (2036), R. Hodges 16-17 (1954), C. Parker 10-11 (2026), D. Bridgewater 14-15 (2026), C. Munday 10-11 (1954), T. Duncoupage 12-13 (1973).

FAVOURITES: 140-144 (407%).

LONG DISTANCE TRAVELLER: None.

WINNED FIRST TIME: Chasing The Moon (2.25), Bold

WINNER: Laurel Seeker (2.25), Newwood Legend (second), Head Mac (2.25), Laurel Seeker (2.25), Newwood Legend (second), Head Mac (2.25), Time Project (third), 1.25.

RETIRED: None.

INJURED: None.

DECEASED: None.

INJURED: None.

Ferguson discovers the power of speech

It's good to talk, Newcastle's £7m signing is ready to admit – and Scotland's coach may be his next call. By John Donoghue

DUNCAN FERGUSON yesterday reopened the lines of communication with his international coach, Craig Brown, and dropped his first hint that he is prepared to rethink his decision never to play again for Scotland.

With Ruud Gullit, his new club manager at Newcastle, keen to encourage a repatriation, and Ferguson himself at least prepared to listen, there is some prospect that Brown may be able to utilise the outgoing Everton captain en route to the European Championship finals.

Football's great recruit has decided that the time is now right for dialogue – not just with the Scottish Football Association, whose members were struck from his Christmas card list last season, but with the rest of the outside world, too.

Ferguson, the footballer who simply refuses to involve himself as an interviewee, just about talked his head off yesterday when he was presented to the media at St James' Park following his £7m transfer, which will be worth a further £1m to Everton after 30 games.

The 26-year-old striker, who last played for his country two seasons ago against Estonia in Monaco, said: "At the moment what happens at Newcastle is closest to my thoughts, but in the future it could be Scotland. We will just have to wait and see."

"Once I realised they were interested it became an easy decision, it took me about an hour. But I was surprised Everton were

There was not even a press conference to mark his £4.4m move from Rangers to Everton in October 1994. Yet the man with the Trappist touch even hinted that this might not prove to be simply a once in a lifetime offer.

"I have always been uncomfortable in front of the cameras," he said. "I decided I just didn't want to speak to people. I carried that over from Scotland. Maybe now it's time I started to speak to some of the press people."

It is a process to which he is surprisingly well suited, as he demonstrated before heading off for a training session in readiness for Saturday's home game against Wimbledon. Ferguson talked at length about his bond with Everton fans and the hopes he has for the partnership he is about to forge with Alan Shearer.

"I had a great relationship with the Everton fans, a great rapport," Ferguson said. "I showed loyalty to them, they showed loyalty to me – and that will never change."

"That is probably why a part of me will always be at Goodison. You can't just switch off like that. I will miss them. But it was Everton who put me up for sale and didn't want me. Newcastle did want me, and that was good enough for me."

"Once I realised they were interested it became an easy decision, it took me about an hour. But I was surprised Everton were

PA

Laughing Magpies: Newcastle's latest recruit, the £7m Scot Duncan Ferguson (left), and manager Ruud Gullit yesterday



prepared to sell considering their position in the League. Obviously, that was part of the agenda and, if they think it is going to benefit the club, then that is up to them. I believe other clubs did show interest, but I only spoke to Newcastle."

Gullit, who disclosed that he first tried to sign Ferguson during his days as Chelsea's player-manager, believes he will take the weight off Shearer, whose own Tyneside future remains in doubt.

When the subject of the England captain was again raised yesterday, the Newcastle chairman, Freddy Shepherd, prevented any debate.

"Can I just stop that," he said. "This is Duncan Ferguson's day, not Alan Shearer's."

So as long as Shearer is around, Ferguson hopes to make the most of it, saying: "Anyone would benefit

playing alongside someone like Alan. But I don't think you could say I can bring the best out of him. He is a quality player, one of the world's best, and has proved he can do the business on his own."

Gullit, whose predecessors Kevin Keegan and Kenny Dalglish virtually

had an open cheque book, has had to sell two players in Steve Watson (to Aston Villa) and Stéphane Guivarc'h (Rangers) to fund this transfer. Though the climate may change, he must have serious doubts about whether he will ever get his hands on a Keegan £60m or Dalglish's £34m.

Ferguson, whose newly signed five-and-a-half year contract is reputedly worth in excess of £10m, may now play for Scotland again – a thought he not so long ago found unpalatable after the way he thought the Scottish FA showed its colours

in the wake of the John McStay affair. Ferguson was not only banned for 12 matches after head-butting the Raith Rovers player, but was also carted off to Glasgow's Barlinnie jail for his sins. What Ferguson wondered was where the Scottish FA was when he needed its support.

Time including time served, it would seem, is a great healer. While Gullit says he will not force the player into a corner, he does believe a reconciliation should be effected.

Gullit said: "I would like him to play for Scotland again. It is good for any player to turn out for his country. Duncan has had difficulties with Scotland in the past but I believe these difficulties can be overcome. But I am not going to force him to do anything."

For Newcastle's chief executive, Freddie Fletcher, who put together

the deal over which manager Water Smith almost quit Everton, it is a piece of business he unsuccessfully tried to negotiate on Keegan's behalf five years ago, when Ferguson played for Dundee United.

Fletcher can well understand why Gullit has followed in Keegan's transfer footsteps, observing: "You don't have to be a rocket scientist to see where we were lacking."

So, at long last, Newcastle have a centre-forward who can dominate opponents in the air. The fans will not have seen the like of Ferguson since Wyn "The Leap" Davies inspired them to win their last piece of silverware, the old Fairs Cup, back in 1969.

Davies, who was just as taciturn, ended up working in a Lancashire bakery after football. Maybe that gives Ferguson food for thought.

Elleray denies Gregory's claim

DAVID ELLERAY, the Premier League referees' spokesman, has denied claims from the Aston Villa manager, John Gregory, that his controversial striker Stan Collymore is a marked man with match officials.

Gregory launched his outburst in the aftermath of Saturday's Premiership match against Liverpool when Collymore was sent off for two bookable offences – the first for a horror tackle on Steve Harkness which left him with damaged knee ligaments. But the Villa manager insisted that Collymore "never gets a free-kick or much protection" and that "referees are judging him before he steps on to the pitch".

Gregory, who will be without the £7m striker for the match against Manchester United in 10 days' time, urged officials to "treat him as a footballer, not as Stan Collymore".

Elleray insisted, however, there was no truth in Gregory's claims. "We are all trained to be totally objective," he said. "Given the fact we are under so much scrutiny, if there was evidence of someone being marked out for treatment by a referee, I am sure it would be spotted."

"The difficulty that referees have in dealing with high-profile players is that some people will feel, whatever a referee does, that he is being too strict or letting the player get away with murder. We get criticism both ways."

Gregory, who yesterday placed a £6m price tag on the out-of-favour striker Julian Joachim, is still refusing to say whether he has taken any action against Collymore for the challenge on Harkness.

Meanwhile, Gregory looks set to be without the services of his goalkeeper Mark Bosnich at Nottingham Forest on Saturday. The Australian, who has missed the last six games, is still struggling to overcome the shoulder injury suffered at Coventry in early October.

The Huddersfield captain Barry Horne will be out of action for the next 10 weeks because of medial ligament damage to his knee. The former Wales midfielder has a scan on his right knee yesterday after picking up the injury in Saturday's Yorkshire derby win over Bradford City.

VOLVO

SUPERBILITY

After all, it is the new Volvo S40 1.6 XS with alloy wheels, CD player, air conditioning and alarm. But at £14,495 on the road, we think you'll agree, it's closer than you thought. For more details call 0800 11 40 40, www.volvo.com

THE VOLVO S40 1.6 XS £14,495
A CAR YOU CAN BELIEVE IN

Jy 11/11/98

Hillery
enies
Gregory's
laim

TO HILLERY, the Press Association spokesman said, "John Gregory, that general strike Stan Collymore launched with match officials aftermath of Saturday's half-time advantage and turned it into a 3-1 defeat is unlikely to be remedied for the return leg, particularly as bookings for Vegard Heggem and Jamie Redknapp mean that, along with Paul Ince and Steve McManaman, will be suspended at Anfield. The UEFA Cup quarter-finals look a distant reference are judging him, he steps on to the pitch." Gregory, who will be without a striker for the match against Chester United in 10 days, said officials to "treat him as if, as not Stan Collymore". Hillery insisted, however, that no truth in Gregory's claim are trained to be totally safe," he said. "Given the risks under so much scrutiny, the evidence of someone being laid out for treatment by me, I am sure it would be safe the difficulty that referees are dealing with high-profile players some people will feel, a referee does, that he is not strict or letting the player get away with murder. We get criticised."

Gregory, who yesterday placed a price tag on the outgoing Julian Joachim, is still to say whether he has taken action against Collymore. Meanwhile, Gregory looks set without the services of his partner Mark Bosnich at Nottingham on Saturday. The Australian has missed the last six games, ill, struggling to overcome a knee injury suffered at Cottam early October.

The Huddersfield captain may well be out of action for weeks because of medial damage to his knee. The Wales mid-fielder had a slight knee yesterday after the injury in Saturday's Derby win over Bradford.

VOLVO

Defensive leaks condemn Liverpool

A VISIT to Celta Vigo's official shop on Tuesday morning confirmed the stature of the team the Spaniards were about to meet. "It is a big, big match," the assistant said. "Much bigger than Aston Villa." You suspect he was disappointed when the tigers of fugue appeared on the pitch as the Liverpool of frail reality.

The shambolic defending that squandered Liverpool's 10-half-time advantage and turned it into a 3-1 defeat is unlikely to be remedied for the return leg, particularly as bookings for Vegard Heggem and Jamie Redknapp mean that, along with Paul Ince and Steve McManaman, will be suspended at Anfield. The UEFA Cup quarter-finals look a distant

FOOTBALL

BY GUY HODGSON

and diminishing goal this morning.

True, a 2-0 win at Anfield will be enough, but Liverpool are leaking goals - 15 in their last six matches - and while they might gain encouragement from a flat Celta defence, their attack offers no comfort at all. The Spaniards look made for the counter, as Aston Villa found to their 3-1 cost three weeks ago. The expectation is they will score in the return.

Afterwards Gérard Houllier

despaired of his defence, accusing them of making schoolboy errors, but that was to slightly underestimate the

excellence of players like Alexander Mostovoi and Juan Sanchez. They would make any backline edgy and the current Liverpool side can appear fearful against threats of a far lower calibre.

Houllier gambled by jettisoning the back five he had employed to winning effect against Aston Villa on Saturday and lost, although, ironically, his centre backs, Steve Staunton and Björn Tore Kvarme, were his best players until the latter was punished for bell-watching and hastened by Vladimir Gudiel deep into injury time.

That third goal almost certainly killed Liverpool's UEFA Cup hopes, and all Houllier's post-match bravado, you suspect the Frenchman be-

lieved it, too. "We could have avoided the two goals we gifted them," he lamented, "but in the second half we lost our shape, discipline and we lost sight of our tasks. The players are particularly disappointed with the third goal - it was a joke, really."

The positive thing is that we scored, which will be very important in the return leg. Celta think the game is finished, they think they have gone through. We don't think so. It will be very difficult for us but we have nothing to lose. We have a chance."

Unfortunately for Liverpool that chance this season has become one of the sucker-punch variety. The team resembles a boxer with a knock-out punch

who can win bouts if he lands it, but usually succumbs to the blows being rained on himself. They have two brilliant strikers in Michael Owen and Robbie Fowler but, unless they repeatedly find the target, the punishment at the other end is too severe.

Even Saturday's match against Villa, a 4-2 win which hinted at a Liverpool revival, in retrospect was just part of the trend. The attack, Fowler in particular, was devastating but it was devastating what was happening elsewhere. Dion Dublin missed a penalty and hit a post, Stan Collymore missed two ripe chances and another penalty might have been conceded. On another day the score could have been 7-4 in the

home side's favour and Anfield would be contemplating five successive defeats.

The frustrating thing is that at the interval on Tuesday Liverpool appeared to be heading for one of their great European performances. After a ricketty start in which they could have conceded three goals in the first 10 minutes, they reorganised themselves and, with David Thompson and Robbie Fowler providing eager outlets and Michael Owen the pace and astonishing cool, there was reason for optimism.

Owen's goal, after 34 minutes, re-emphasised the young man's aplomb. He had missed an easy chance six minutes earlier and even an 18-year-old of his extraordinary quality could

have been forgiven for being inhibited when Thompson's through ball found him.

Instead, three touches and the ball was not only in the net but the Celta goalkeeper, Richard Dutruel, had been comprehensively humiliated.

Youth of quality deserves protection provided by its elders but Owen did not get it. A look at the photographs of all three Celta goals revealed at least half the Liverpool team in the penalty area but the numbers counted, as they have too often this season, for nothing. The defence lack spirit and, most of all, a leader.

The need for a commanding centre-half has been apparent for years but the failure to address it has gone beyond negligence and is approaching a scandal. According to Roy Evans before him and now Houllier, many have been pursued but the fact that none has been landed suggests Liverpool are unwilling to pay enough either in terms of transfer fees or wages. Or unable. In the past only the best was good enough for Anfield.

Houllier watched AZ Alkmaar's 27-year-old centre-back Peter Wijker on Sunday and returned unconvinced but sooner rather than later somebody has to be bought. Liverpool look likely to go out of Europe on 8 December and it is not beyond the realms of possibility that they will not qualify for next season. Reputations can be lost as well as won.

Amoruso confident Scots will progress

LORENZO AMOROSO is optimistic that Rangers can book a place in the quarter-finals of the UEFA Cup for next spring.

The Scottish Premier League leaders were held to a 1-1 home draw by Parma on Tuesday night but are still quietly confident of progressing when the second leg is played in a fortnight.

CLOSE to 50,000 fans raised the roof during a thrilling encounter and Alberto Malesani, the Parma coach, admitted he had never experienced an atmosphere like it. "Football should always be like this," he said. "It was a great experience to play in a stadium like Ibrox."

Rangers trudged to a goal from the Argentinian striker Abel Balbo, only for Rod Wallace to then grab his 14th of the season. It stretched their unbeaten run in Europe to nine matches and the home captain, Amoruso, said: "The game is still there for us. We all believe that Parma are a top side with great technical ability but we showed in the second half we can make changes."

"They are a good team that has won the UEFA Cup, Cup-Winners' Cup and Italian Cup in the past four years. But we are also a good team. How many people expected us to go to Leverkusen and win 2-1?"

"It will be very, very hard in Parma but in football anything is possible. We will go there to play with passion and try our best for Rangers."

Malesani expects an equally tough match in the Tardini Stadium on 8 December. "The performance against Rangers raises our morale. It was a great game and a good result for us," he said. "We were comfortable for 70 minutes then Rangers came out to play while we were catching our breath. My only regret is that we didn't see the game up after Balbo's goal. We allowed our opponents to come at us."

"But we have good team spirit here and I am happy about that and the fact that Balbo is now coming into his best form."

Rangers have another important date on Sunday when they face St Johnstone in the League Cup final at Celtic Park.



Allsport

Evers keeps Nationwide flag flying

LUTON MIDFIELDER Sean Evers stretched the Nationwide League Under-21 side's proud unbeaten run against their Italian counterparts to six matches with a third-minute goal in yesterday's 1-1 draw at the Liberati Stadium in Terni.

Evers gratefully accepted a cross from Sunderland striker Michael Bridges to fire the League's Under-21 XI ahead - ironically, Bridges will be face-to-face with the scorer in next week's Worthington Cup quarter-final at the Stadium of Light.

The appeal panel, chaired

by Leon Strassle, decided to uphold another decision by Uefa's control and disciplinary body to ban the Polish club, Wisla Krakow, from European tournaments for one year.

The panel considered the club responsible not only for the act of the spectator who threw a knife at the Parma midfielder, Dino Baggio, during a Uefa Cup tie, but also for the actions of the Krakow player, Ryszard Czerwic, who threw the knife back into the crowd to try and conceal the evidence.

But 10 minutes from time the Serie B Under-12 side levelled the game with a penalty by Pescara teenager, Mauro Esposito. The game finished with honour, even, but the Italian substitute Antonio Bellis was sent off for a second booking just 20 minutes after coming on to the field.

Evers' goal was his fourth of the season and a deserved reward for an industrious display in central midfield for the England Under-21 coach, Peter Taylor, who was in charge of the side.

The Hitchin-born player almost missed out as Michael Branch prepared to latch on to Bridges' ball. But a loud shout by Evers led to the Everton striker stepping over the ball for Evers to strike crisply past Napoli goalkeeper, Ferdinando Coppola.

Previously it was the man at

the other end of the field, the Nationwide captain, Richard Wright of Ipswich, who had kept his side in the game with fine saves from Vincenzo Italano and Claudio Ferrarese.

Branch's second-half substitute Bellisva clattered into Bradford striker Isiah Rankin to earn his second yellow card in 20 minutes.

The hosts had controlled the game in the first half, but

the Nationwide League's defensive marshalling by Simon Marsh of Oxford, Bradford's Andy O'Brien and Marshall meant Wright was quiet in goal.

In the second half the League Select XI began to enjoy more possession and Evers' goal was the perfect reward for their composure.

On the hour Branch proved just why Manchester City have had two bids to make his loan move permanent rejected by Everton when he forced a fine

goal. We allowed our opponents to come at us.

"But we have good team spirit here and I am happy about that and the fact that Balbo is now coming into his best form."

Rangers have another important date on Sunday when they face St Johnstone in the League Cup final at Celtic Park.

SPORTING DIGEST

ATHLETICS
Denise Lewis, the European and Commonwealth heptathlon gold medallist, has been awarded an honorary degree by her home town university in Wolverhampton.

The IAAF, the world governing body, yesterday ratified the one-hour record by the Kenyan Legio Lorupeta set last August in Tokyo.

Denyse Lutz, who also holds the record for the marathon, covered 18,340 miles (11,936 miles) in an hour to beat the old mark of 18,084m (11,237 miles) set in 1981 by the Italian Silvana Cruttwell.

The new Spur's manager,

George Graham, once the man in charge at their arch-rivals Arsenal, was given a seal of approval by the 400 supporters who attended.

The Italian Spur's

BASKETBALL
INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY MATCH (Match report in Indoor Centre; England 84, Switzerland 71 (England won series 2-0)).

BOWLS

UK INDOOR SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP (Match report in Indoor Centre; England 61, M King Eng 60, D Gourlay Eng 56, 20 M Caldecott Eng 7-0).

BOXING

Mike Tyson has agreed to a settlement with two men he allegedly attacked after a press conference, but the former undefeated world heavyweight champion will still stand trial next Tuesday. Tyson, who is on parole after spending three years in jail for rape, faced criminal misdemeanour charges even after reaching a deal to prevent civil suits by Abbie Lee Saucedo, 62, and Richard Hardic, 52.

A \$10m lawsuit has been taken out on Oscar De La Hoya by a woman claiming she was raped by the United States' world boxing council welterweight champion in June 1995 when she was only 15 years old.

ICE HOCKEY

NHL: Boston 4, Tampa Bay 1; St Louis 2, Nashville 1; Florida 3, Chicago 2.

EUROPEAN LEAGUE: Manchester 2, Bolzano 1 (0-3).

ICE SKATING

SNOCROSS (Liverpool Victoria UK Championships): Gloucester 1, Nottingham 1, Birmingham 1, Manchester 1, Plymouth 1.

WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

FOOTBALL
(Zagreb) Women's qualifying Group A: 1. Dalmatia (Rus) 0-4 record; Placing: 2. Vojvodina (Rus) 0-3; 3. Serbia (Serbia) 1-2; 4. Montenegro 1-2; 5. Croatia 1-2; 6. C Doyle (US) 3-2; 7. Y. Ochiai (Japan) 3-6; 8. G. Julian (FRA) 2-8; 9. C. Gómez (Ger) 2-8; 10. G. Junqueira (BRA) 2-8; 11. D. Baggio (Ital) 2-8; 12. C. Dimov (Bulg) 4-8; 13. C. Cimatti (Ital) 5-2; 14. A. Dimov (Bulg) 5-2; 15. S. Seregin (Russia) 5-2; 16. G. Manchuk (Ukr) 5-2; 17. S. Kuznetsov (Rus) 2-0; 18. A. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 19. S. Kuznetsov (Rus) 2-0; 20. F. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 21. E. S. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 22. D. G. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 23. E. S. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 24. D. G. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 25. D. G. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 26. D. G. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 27. D. G. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 28. D. G. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 29. D. G. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 30. D. G. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 31. D. G. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 32. D. G. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 33. D. G. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 34. D. G. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 35. D. G. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 36. D. G. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 37. D. G. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 38. D. G. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 39. D. G. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 40. D. G. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 41. D. G. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 42. D. G. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 43. D. G. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 44. D. G. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 45. D. G. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 46. D. G. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 47. D. G. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 48. D. G. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 49. D. G. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 50. D. G. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 51. D. G. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 52. D. G. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 53. D. G. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 54. D. G. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 55. D. G. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 56. D. G. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 57. D. G. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 58. D. G. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 59. D. G. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 60. D. G. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 61. D. G. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 62. D. G. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 63. D. G. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 64. D. G. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 65. D. G. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 66. D. G. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 67. D. G. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 68. D. G. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 69. D. G. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 70. D. G. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 71. D. G. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 72. D. G. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 73. D. G. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 74. D. G. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 75. D. G. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 76. D. G. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 77. D. G. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 78. D. G. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 79. D. G. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 80. D. G. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 81. D. G. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 82. D. G. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 83. D. G. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 84. D. G. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 85. D. G. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 86. D. G. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 87. D. G. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 88. D. G. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 89. D. G. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 90. D. G. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 91. D. G. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 92. D. G. Lomachenko (Ukr) 2-0; 93.

SPORT

AGASSI'S HANOVER HITCH P29 • FERGUSON TALKS OF TARTAN RETURN P30

Ferri across the Mersey for Houllier

GÉRARD HOULLIER'S first excursion into the transfer market was to bring a fellow Frenchman to Merseyside yesterday. Jean-Michel Ferri, a 29-year-old defensive midfielder, became Houllier's first signing when he paid Istanbulspor £12m for the uncapped player.

Ferri apparently caught Houllier's eye when he played for Nantes, where he was rated highly but has failed to settle in Turkey.

Craig Hignett completed a £200,000 move from Aberdeen to Barnsley yesterday, admitting it was the prospect of being reunited with his former Middlesbrough colleague and friend, John Hendrie, that persuaded him to travel south.

After Hignett had agreed a two-and-a-half year contract, he said it would be difficult coming to terms with the fact that Hendrie is now his boss.

"I'm still getting used to calling him 'gafer,'" he admitted. "But that doesn't mean I expect any favours from him at this club. If I'm not doing it I expect to get dropped."

Hignett's fee will be part funded by the £450,000 departure of Jan Age Fjortoft, who is in talks with the German side Eintracht Frankfurt.

Paul Warhurst, who has made 24 appearances for Palace since his transfer in the summer of 1997, has joined Bolton Wanderers on a month's loan. Warhurst, 29, has recently admitted that he wishes to move back north after periods at Blackpool and Sheffield Wednesday and his family have already returned.

Frank Lampard, the England Under-21 captain and subject of an £8m offer from Tottenham, has said he will be staying at West Ham, where he believes his ambitions can be fulfilled.

The Hammers have told

deeper role, with Steve Lomas being out injured for a spell.

"I haven't been able to get forward and make runs into the box, which is my strength. But overall I think I am a much improved player when I first got into the side at West Ham."

"I was disappointed not to get into the England squad last week but I've played well in the last few games for the Under-21s and it's up to me to keep battling away and hope the chance will come."

Juventus are planning to lobby Uefa, football's European governing body, to have their Champions' League tie against Galatasaray in Istanbul postponed again next week because of their continuing fears over the diplomatic crisis between Italy and Turkey.

The tie, originally scheduled for last night but already called off, has been caught up in the future over Italy's refusal to extradite the Kurdish rebel leader, Abdullah Ocalan, who is wanted in Turkey on treason and terrorism charges. It has been postponed until 2 December because of the current wave of anti-Italian feeling in Turkey. The club feared both players and supporters would be at risk if they travelled to Istanbul.

Coventry City's teenage striker, Laurent Delorge, woke up yesterday facing the prospect of a lengthy lay-off. The 19-year-old Delorge, who has yet to play for the first team, broke his left leg in an innocuous challenge with the former Coventry player, David Smith, in a reserve match with Grimsby at Highfield Road on Tuesday.

The Brazil coach, Wanderley Luxemburgo, has been handed a 60-day suspension by the country's disciplinary tribunal of sport for bursting into a referee's changing room and verbally abusing him.

"Last season away from home we sometimes became a bit ruffled but we have learnt from that, are more experienced, more together as a team and more confident. We are more solid away from home and if we can keep that going and carry on with our home form we have every chance of being in the top five or six."

Luxemburgo admitted: "I don't think I've played as well as I can do this season but maybe that is because I've had to play a

FOOTBALL

By ANDREW MARTIN

George Graham that the talented young midfielder is happy to remain at Upton Park, where his father, Frank Sun, is assistant manager to Harry Redknapp.

The West Ham chief executive, Peter Storrie, said: "We did have an offer from Tottenham but we are not interested in selling. They telephoned me and then they telephoned Harry - they were persistent at least. But Harry told them no, and I told them no. He is not for sale."

The 20 year old believes that the east Londoners are capable of qualifying for a European place this season following a promising start to the Premiership season.

He said: "I signed a five-year contract earlier this season which was a commitment from me and my ambition is to play for England while at West Ham. I want to go on and do great things for West Ham United and England - and I think I can fulfil everything I want from football at West Ham."

"Realistically this season we have got to look at Europe as the main aim. We are often classified as a cup team who can beat anyone on their day but we have been striving to get consistency into our game."

"Last season away from home we sometimes became a bit ruffled but we have learnt from that, are more experienced, more together as a team and more confident. We are more solid away from home and if we can keep that going and carry on with our home form we have every chance of being in the top five or six."

Luxemburgo admitted: "I don't think I've played as well as I can do this season but maybe that is because I've had to play a

bit ruffled but we have learnt from that, are more experienced, more together as a team and more confident. We are more solid away from home and if we can keep that going and carry on with our home form we have every chance of being in the top five or six."

Luxemburgo admitted: "I don't think I've played as well as I can do this season but maybe that is because I've had to play a



The Scotland team practise their line-out at the Livingston training ground yesterday

Scotland pursue full-back gamble

RUGBY UNION

GREGOR TOWNSEND has been handed his first international start at full-back for Scotland's World Cup qualifier with Portugal on Saturday.

The Lions stand-off will pull on the navy blue No 15 jersey after impressing there as an early replacement for the injured Derrick Lee in last weekend's 35-10 defeat to South Africa. Originally dropped for the Springboks match in favour of Duncan Hodge, the 25-year-old now has an outstanding chance to prove his long-term potential at full-back in what should be a landlocked Scotland victory.

Keith Wood, the Lions hooker, earned a full recall to the Ireland side yesterday but will not return as captain in Saturday's Test against South Africa at Lansdowne Road.

The Irish selectors, who retained the lock Paddy Johns in that role, announced a team showing six changes from the side which beat Romania in a World Cup qualifier last weekend.

The Lions pair of prop Paul Wallace, who has a sprained ankle, and back row man Eric Miller, who was concussed on Saturday, were ruled out.

They have been replaced by Justin Fitzpatrick and Don O'Cinneagáin, who was born in Cape Town and two years ago was playing for Western Province.

The other changes showed the return of Kevin Maggs at centre and Conor McGuinness at scrum-half while the 22-year-old Gavan Dempsey makes his first start in an Ireland jersey on the left wing.

Wood missed Ireland's World Cup win over Georgia 10 days ago because of a contractual dispute with the Irish Rugby Football Union.

That, however, has now been resolved and, after coming on as a half-time replacement against Romania, Wood takes over again in the starting line-up.

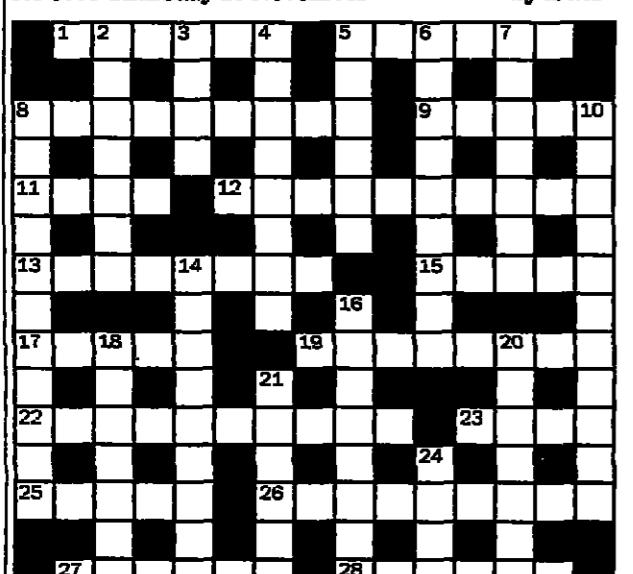
"It's great to be back," the Harlequins front row man said. "It's a big match and a big stage and I am delighted to be part of it."

Teams, Digest, page 31

THE THURSDAY CROSSWORD

No 3778 Thursday 26 November by Mass

Wednesday's solution



ACROSS

- Slow mover's better sacrificing lead (6)
- Birds about to open mouths (6)
- This convenience is for the boarder (9)
- Indicate position of Rook occupying a file (5)
- Instrument, old fiddle, from what we hear (4)
- Putting on a feast (10)
- Perversely austere, mostly concerned with hoard (8)
- Bird almost like a gull found around Britain (5)
- Send on the same round (5)
- Arresting one old fighter engaged in pugilism (8)
- One with a line in sport? (5-5)

DOWN

- This should get one under way? (7)
- European from Portugal engaged in course (4)
- Repeatedly claim wrongfully arrest around southern Spain (8)
- Paint compound (4,2)
- Club food with glass containing good wine (9)
- Highest point of winging (4)
- Channel swimmer's last crack (4)
- One up in legal clause? (5)
- Gold in odd place in China? (9)
- Mate cooked up without knight (6)
- Top divorcee has issue reported (6)
- Addition to bill for roll stuffed with fish (9)
- Stay that is for undergarments (8)
- Sink builder (7)
- Office of prayer leader - parent's filled it, with energy? (7)
- Extract editor questioned (6)
- Soldier among former cadets (4)

Drug users face life bans and \$1m fines

ATHLETICS

By STEPHEN WILSON

ATHLETES FOUND guilty of using steroids could face life bans and fines of up to \$1m (£650,000) under new anti-doping proposals put forward by the International Olympic Committee in London yesterday.

A package of proposed drug sanctions, including a precise definition of doping, has been drawn up by a special IOC panel and will be presented to leaders of 35 international sports federations in Switzerland tomorrow. However, some leading Olympic officials say the proposals are too complicated and confuse the issue rather than solve it.

The IOC wants all federations to endorse a single medical code, embracing uniform drug rules, procedures and sanctions, in advance of the world anti-doping conference in Lausanne in February.

An IOC working group dealing with legal and ethical issues has come up with a proposed definition of doping as the basis for the fight against performance-enhancing drugs.

Doping is defined as one or both of the following:

■ "use of an expedient substance or method potentially harmful to health and capable of enhancing the athlete's performance";

■ "the presence in the athlete's body of a substance or evidence of a use of a method where such substance appears on the IOC's list of banned substances".

Existing IOC guidelines are much simpler, recommending a maximum two-year suspension for athletes committing a first steroid offense. There is no provision for fines.

Even though Werner was on the IOC panel which drew up

the proposals, he said he thought the measures were flawed. "As a lawyer, I understand the discussions, but it won't be so easy to apply it for those non-lawyers," he said. "This proposal is complicated, maybe a little too complicated."

He questioned the differentiation between doping and "intentional" doping. "How can anybody prove intentions?" he said. "How many cases of doping are not intentional?"

Werner also expressed concern that the proposals put the burden of proof in doping cases on the sports bodies. The federations would have to prove the athletes guilty, rather than the athletes proving their innocence.

In the so-called regular cases, sanctions for use of stimulants such as ephedrine would be punished by suspensions of one to six months. For more serious offences, the penalty would range from six months to two years.

For aggravated cases, the proposal calls for suspensions of two to eight years. If "intentional doping" with steroids is proven, a life ban is recommended.

The proposal calls for fines of up to \$100,000 (£60,000) for minor drug offenses and fines of up to \$1m for serious infractions.

Any third parties, such as doctors or coaches involved in supplying drugs to athletes, would also be liable to penalties.

Existing IOC guidelines are

much simpler, recommending a maximum two-year suspension for athletes committing a first steroid offense. There is no provision for fines.

Even though Werner was on the IOC panel which drew up

More women are victims of INTESTACY than DIVORCE

A woman, on average, lives longer than a man. So she is more likely to have to face the difficulties of intestacy - the legal term for being left in a mess because her husband didn't make a Will.

Many men assume that, on their death, all they own will automatically go to their wives. This isn't so. When a man dies intestate, not just his wife but brothers, sisters and even cousins may have a claim on what he owned.

His widow may have to sell the house to pay off his relations.

None of this need happen if he makes a Will. Yet seven out of ten people fail to take this simple step.

Now, as a service to the public, WWF UK (World Wide Fund For Nature) has produced its own plain language guide to making a Will. It explains:

- why everyone needs to make a Will
- how to go about it
- and how to minimise tax liability on what you leave behind.

Don't leave it to chance. Give yourself the peace of mind of knowing your loved ones are properly provided for.

Send or phone for our FREE guide to making a Will, today.

Please send me my FREE copy of your guide to Wills and Estate Planning (allow 28 days for delivery)

Name/Mr/Mrs/Ms _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Tel _____

E-mail _____

Postcode _____

Date _____

Signature _____



Scotland
pursue
full-back
gambles

RUGBY UNION

GREGOR TOWNSEND has handed his first international start at full-back for Scotland World Cup qualifier with Portugal on Saturday.

The Lions stand-off will be on the navy blue No 15 jersey after impressing there as an early replacement for the injured Derrick Lee in last weekend's 35-10 defeat to South Africa. Originally dropped by the Springboks in favour of Duncan Hodge, the 25-year-old now has an outstanding chance to prove his longer potential at full-back in what should be a landslide victory.

Keith Wood, the Lions' leader, earned a full recall to the land side yesterday but did not return as captain in today's Test against South Africa at Lansdowne Road.

The Irish selectors, who retained the lock Paddy Johnstone in that role, announced a team showing six changes from the side which beat Romania in World Cup qualifier last week.

The Lions' pair of prop Phil Wallace, who has a sprained ankle, and back row man Mark Miller, who was concussed Saturday, were ruled out.

They have been replaced by Justin Fitzpatrick and Dan O'Curry, who was born in Cape Town and two years ago was playing for Western Province.

The other changes show the return of Kevin Maggs centre and Conor McGuinness at scrum-half while the 25-year-old Gavan Dillane makes his first start in blue and white on the left wing.

Wood missed Ireland's final cup win over Georgia 10 days ago because of a contractual dispute with the Irish Rugby Football Union.

That, however, has now been resolved and, after coming on in half-time replacement against Romania, Wood will never again be in the starting line-up.

"It's great to be back," he says. "It's a big match and a big stage and I am delighted to be part of it."

Team, Digest, page 11



Jawad Botmi, above left, and Samar Alami, above right, are in prison for the bombing of the Israeli Embassy in London. But was Reda Moghrabi, centre, the man behind the explosion?

The bomber who never was

This is the face of Reda Moghrabi. Because of him fellow Palestinians Samar Alami and Jawad Botmi are serving 20 years for conspiracy to bomb the Israeli Embassy. Only Moghrabi – now suspected of being an Israeli agent – knows the truth, but apart from their word there is not the slightest evidence that he ever existed. By Robert Fisk

'yuck'

Give them what they really want this Christmas

Inside her tiny room, with its arched brick roof just off the stone corridor of the women's Category "A" prison in Durham, Samar Alami has already had two years to ponder the extraordinary events that took her from her wealthy Knightsbridge home to share her life with Myra Hindley and Rosemary West. Palestine seems a very long way away – even when Samar Alami hands her visitors a small cup of scalding Arabic coffee – and the more she tells her story, the more you realise how difficult it must have been for an English jury to believe in her innocence.

On 16 December 1996, Samar Alami and her friend, Jawad Botni, both proclaiming their innocence, were convicted of conspiring to bomb the Israeli embassy and the headquarters of the Zionist federation in London in 1994. "The evil plan," one paper called them. When Alami named the man she believed had entrapped them – Reda Moghrabi, whom she now suspected was an Israeli agent – the authorities largely ignored her revelation. Which is perverse, to say the least, because the police admit they never found the actual bomber. And Moghrabi is the name the bomber used.

At 32, Samar Alami is a slight, energetic Lebanese-Palestinian with a BSc in chemical engineering from University College, London, and an MSc from Imperial College; an intelligent, thoughtful, political woman who was a member of various British Palestinian groups, as well as a supporter – she never concealed this – of the Damascus-based Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. Jawad Botni is 30, came from Beirut in the occupied West Bank, and holds a BSc in electrical engineering from Leicester University. An attempt to run his own security alarm company had failed by January 1995, and he was reduced to earning pin-money in Britain by acting as a middle-man at car auctions. Frustration at the plight of Palestinian refugees, anger at the unfair nature of the Oslo "peace"

accord, and guilt that they had no part in the "resistance" to Israeli rule in the West Bank, brought the two together.

Carefully, Alami tells visitors of her life before the trial: how she had kept two guns in a family apartment in Knightsbridge for a Palestinian friend who feared assassination when he was in London; how she tried to work out the chemistry of bombs which could be improvised for use against Israeli military targets in the occupied territories; how she experimented with Botni to see if model aircraft could carry explosives over the Lebanon-Israel border; how she had been photographed at a London synagogue during a visit by Shimon Peres (she said she took an interest in Jewish affairs); and how she took up Reda Moghrabi's offer of free explosives (or experiments with the model aircraft, she claims) a few days before the Israeli embassy was bombed in 1994.

"I guess I was a bit naive," she told me just before her trial. "I never felt threatened by Reda Moghrabi. I didn't take nearly enough precautions." And listening to her, I could see how the 12-strong jury would shake their heads in disbelief. She was convicted by a majority of 11 to one, and I wasn't surprised. Gareth Peirce, her solicitor, was not going to score any points when the defence tried to explain to the jury the history of Palestine – even though Peirce brought along a shoal of testimonials for Samar Alami, including one from a former Tory minister, Lord Gilmour.

But the trial was, to put it mildly, a very puzzling affair. Even before it began, the case developed unusually. First of all, the police charged Nadia Zeira, a very middle-class Palestinian lady, with planting the bomb outside the embassy. Explosive traces had supposedly been found on a table in her home. Then, once the trial began, all charges against Zeira were dropped. Another Palestinian, Mahmoud Abu-Wardeh, was charged, but the jury acquitted him on all charges. And in the pre-trial period, the judge allowed both Alami and Botni to go free on bail – indeed, I first

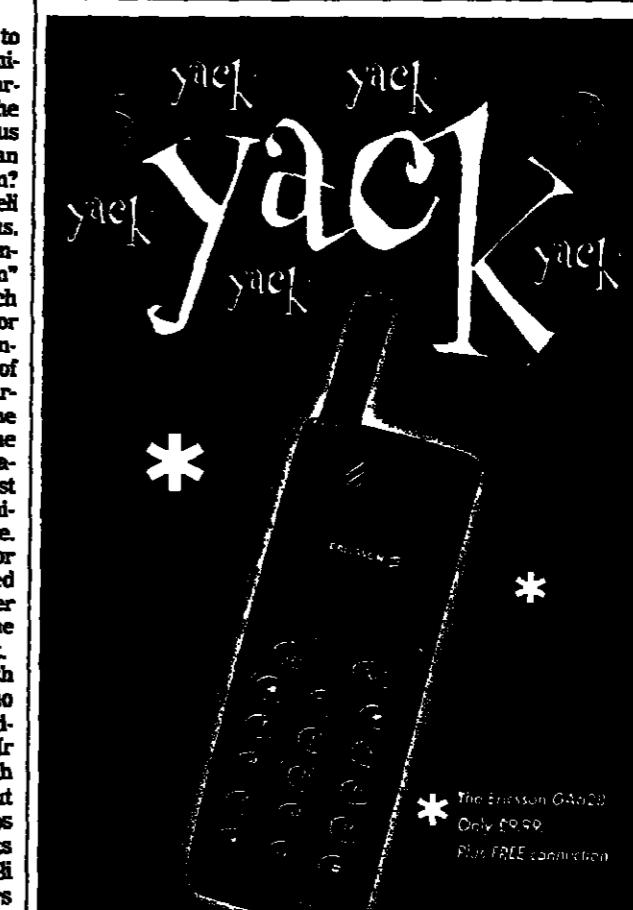
met both of them when they turned up to a lecture I gave at the Royal Geographical Society in London during their hearing. Why, I asked myself then, would the court allow two supposedly dangerous "terrorists", alleged to have blown up an embassy, to wander the streets of London?

The claim of responsibility for the Israeli embassy bombing was itself very curious. It was sent to two Arab newspapers in London and claimed to be from the "Jaffa team" of the "Palestinian Resistance". No such group has ever been heard of before, or since, and the wording of the Arabic-language document lacked the clarity of nearly all other similar claims. A week earlier, a massive bomb had destroyed the Israeli embassy in Buenos Aires – yet the London bombings killed no one, an extraordinary miracle that had most Middle East militants wondering what sort of organisation could have proved so ineffective. Every Palestinian opposition group or Muslim organisation in Lebanon opposed to the so-called "peace process" has either denied to *The Independent* any role in the explosions, or expressed ignorance of it.

Then came the trial itself. Gareth Peirce, Alami's solicitor – the lady who broke the prosecution's case in the Guildford Four trial – agrees that the judge, Mr Justice Garland, generally behaved with great fairness towards her client. But there were some unhappy prosecution slips in the trial. A drawing of London streets allegedly showing the location of the Israeli embassy – target of the July 1994 bombers – was proved to be a street map of Sion where one of Alami's relatives lived. There was confusion about an aerial found in Mr Abu-Wardeh's possession which was originally said to be part of Botni's aircraft project, but was in fact part of a security alarm.

Then two members of the jury complained to Mr Justice Garland that a reporter in the court had tried to contact them during the trial proceedings. One of the jurors stated that the reporter "said words to the effect: 'We've got a telephone

Continued on page 8



The new Vodafone 6000 comes with FREE CONNECTION

with £100 and £50 CASHBACK and the best rates

in the UK. Plus get a free 12 month service agreement.

With a 12 month service agreement, you'll always be connected.

Call 0800 10 11 12 or visit www.vodafone-retail.co.uk

Subject to terms and conditions. To new Vodafone 6000 users on a 12 month service agreement. £50 cashback offer valid for new Vodafone 6000 users on a 12 month service agreement. £100 cashback offer valid for new Vodafone 6000 users on a 12 month service agreement. © Vodafone 1998. All rights reserved. Vodafone is a registered trademark of Vodafone Group plc.

0800 10 11 12

vodafone

Letters	10	Editor	10	Listings	17-18
Leaders and comment	11	Alain	14-15	Satellite	19
Obituaries	12	Star Track	15	Radio	18
Features	13	Entertainment	16	Today's TV	20

INSIDE

Peers and pageantry

Sir: If it is broke (as in the Millennium bug, and Dome), then fix it; if it ain't broke, just ugly, then go fix something more important.

In the Queen's speech we see major reforms to transport policy and food standards postponed, in order to abolish hereditary peers. Moreover, the P G Wodehouse lot are to be replaced with assorted recycled Stratford regional councillors, backroom apprentices and, no doubt in the fullness of Tory time, PR sleazies and fat cats.

Some years ago, I was invited to dinner in the Canadian Senate (which is entirely made up of such political retreats). They bewailed their lack of legitimacy and pointed to the example of the much more popular Lords (then taking on Mrs Thatcher).

Lords are not in the habit of submitting to party discipline; and if "the Care of the Pig" comes up for debate, there will be a peer who knows, though party backs think pork is born in plastic wraps in Tesco's. And the Lords' scientific knowledge far outweighs that of the Commons. Transport and food policy are both science issues. The choice of two science-based reforms as sacrificial victims of the move to abolish hereditary peers is symbolic. We already have a Commons full of party faithful by all means get rid of ancient hereditary Lords, but not to replace them with party-line yes-people.

EUAN G NISBET
Ealingfield Green,
Surrey

Sir: If the Government is sincere about bringing in stage two of Lords reform within the next couple of years, perhaps it could reassure doubters by time-limiting the current proposed legislation, so that if it is not replaced by full Lords reform within, say, three years, the Act lapses and hereditary peers can resume their places.

PAUL JOHNSON
Bristol



Hong Kong in the Rain No 4: Bridesmaids struggle with a train outside a register office in Kowloon

Edward Webb

opposing parties will accept peacefully the will of the majority.

The value of the pageantry is to bring this to the attention of the widest possible audience. You are naive if you imagine that as many people would pay attention to the event or the legislation if it were presented by the politicians alone. The repeated attempts to replace the monarchy with a drab system such as exists in other countries, all in the name of democracy, do a great disservice to the nation and its sense of identity. We have a unique and curious institution which has great value and your arguments to reduce and thus eventually abolish it are misguided.

ANTHONY D WOOD
Listedard,
Cornwall

Sir: The answer to the questions posed by your leading article, "Modern democracy does not need this royal performance", is simple. Sell the crown jewels to the Americans and build several hospitals. Open the palaces to the homeless. Get Wills and Harry places on YTS schemes.

Will anybody who thinks that is silly, in terms of costs and benefits, please tell me why?

G CUTLER
Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire

Sir: What other business would tolerate several hundred executives - most with other jobs on the side - recalling themselves after a two-month summer recess, all squabbling over voting rights and with a chairman arriving in a gold carriage to deliver the business plan - all with only four weeks to go before the next Christmas recess?

As well as removing the voting rights of board members, let's have a shareholders' EGM to call for performance indicators, a downsizing of the workforce, and a review of the plans to open subsidiary branches in Wales and Scotland.

BEN JAMES
Southampton

Doctor of death

Sir: Dr Kevorkian is back in the headlines again, now flaunting his dealing in death on American television ("Mercy killer" puts man to death on TV", 24 November). But we must exercise the greatest caution. If it were to be ruled legal that a person's life could be defined as not worth living, then the question would inevitably follow: Who is best qualified to make such an assessment?

Perhaps not the ill patient, who may be depressed or confused. Perhaps not their family members - they might be too upset to approach the issue objectively. Will the onus then fall on the medical profession to pass the sentence as well as carry out the deed, to act as judge as well as executioner?

This is not far-fetched. More than 10,000 people in Holland now carry anti-euthanasia "passports" out of fear of being killed by doctors if they fall seriously ill. And their fears are well founded, for a

survey of Dutch doctors has revealed that 23 per cent have ended patients' lives without their explicit request.

Now, as the whole concept of "managed care" takes hold in the NHS, the spectre looms of guidelines and protocols setting out whose life it may be cost-effective to preserve. Put bluntly, the most economic management decision for the elderly sick requiring long-term care is to bring life to a speedy end - "managed death". And the idea of the state which looks after you "from cradle to grave" takes on a whole new meaning.

HUGH J THOMSON
Consultant Surgeon
Birmingham

Dirty money

Sir: While the Law Society takes the problem of money laundering very seriously, the reality is far less dramatic and more complex than the picture painted in your front-

page story, "City law firms investigated over drug cartel money laundering" (23 November).

Importantly, my information is that the solicitors being investigated are not working in the largest and most well-known City law firms. Money launderers do not act like supporting characters in a Hollywood gangster movie. A money launderer will, in most cases, appear to be a legitimate businessman who wants to conduct an unremarkable business transaction. They do not appear with suitcases full of used £10 notes. The bulk of money laundering is carried out through banks and financial institutions. However, in a small proportion of cases, solicitors and other professionals will be targeted by these criminals.

The challenge for solicitors is how to spot a suspect transaction. Also, solicitors face the difficult choice of when they should breach

the duty of client confidentiality and report a case of suspected money laundering to the police. They can only do so in cases of real suspicion.

The Law Society, City firms and the profession as a whole will continue in their efforts to eradicate money laundering. We will also continue to help the National Criminal Intelligence Service in its work in this difficult area of law enforcement.

MICHAEL MATHEWS
Law Society President
London WC2

Babies in prison

Sir: On page 2 (24 November), you quote a Prison Service spokesman saying that mothers in prison were under no illusions that if they were involved in violent incidents their babies would be removed. Four

pages later you quote the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: "The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the state". Not, it seems, in British prisons.

In almost every other stratum of society it is now recognised that the only grounds for removing a child from its mother is when the mother poses a danger to the child from which it cannot be sheltered by outside supervision. Yet the prison service is using the removal of very young babies as an instrument of punishment for their mothers.

Recently delivered mothers in ideal environments are under a great deal of stress. Those who are in prison must be under even more stress and it is understandable that tempers flare. However, the solution must be to separate the women involved in these incidents from each other - not from their babies. By choosing the latter course, we as a society must be causing untold suffering to both the mother and, which should concern us even more, to the babies themselves.

VICKI PORTMAN
Cheadle Hulme, Cheshire

Lessons of Camelot

Sir: In the year 2001 let's not hand over our National Lottery to Mr Branson. Notwithstanding his offer to run it sans profit, he ought to have enough on his hands looking after his far-from-clockwork railway. Nor should we involve any other entrepreneur or pte. The lessons of Camelot (admittedly with a pussyfoot OFLOT) have surely been learned.

The people's lottery would be best run by the people and for the people. Let efficient National Savings take charge. Premium Bonds and the Lottery would run well in tandem. With the coming National Lottery Commission firmly in charge, Britain could have fund-raising free from greed.

At the same time, top prizes should be reduced to £1m so that many more punters won the lesser amounts. The mid-week draw has lost its charm and should go. If there is any televising of results, it should be by way of a five-minute news slot on all channels without fee or favour.

JIM BRUNTON
Edinburgh

A case to act on

Sir: Contrary to your report "Steep rise in sex abuse of patients" (21 November), the British Psychological Society did remove Dr Peter Slade from the Register of Chartered Psychologists.

The rationale for our disciplinary committee for allowing Dr Slade to remain in membership of the society, as opposed to remaining on our register, was so that we might have some control over his future behaviour. This case highlights the necessity for statutory control of psychologists, something the British Psychological Society has been campaigning for since the early 1990s.

Our latest communications with government indicate that whilst the case in favour of statutory control is made, they are not prepared to find government time to put the legislation on the floor of the House. Perhaps this case will persuade the government to act.

Dr INGRID LUNT
President
British Psychological Society
Leicester

Men as scapegoats

Sir: So, premature spinsterhood afflicts women east of Berlin too, does it? ("Bridget Jones goes to Budapest", 24 November). Having Adam LeBor relay the news doesn't make the analysis any less facile. Once again, men are the problem sex, their fragile egos threatened by independent-minded women. But at least it diverts Bridget's attention from her own inadequacies.

Far from resenting high-earning women, most men are only too happy to be relieved of the breadwinner's burden. The problem is female sexuality, which remains fixated with power. To preserve differentials, Bridget demands an incremental increase from her partner. Nor has she developed the protective instinct that once drove men to share their wealth with their partners.

The best therapy for Bridget Jones is to confront her own need to change. Using men as scapegoats solves nothing.

ANDREW SCHOFIELD
Cambridge

Easy target

Sir: Could someone please tell me where I can acquire one of those cardboard cut-outs of M Thatcher (Review, 24 November)?

We have a 25-yard air rifle shoot. It would be too formal to call it a range in my back garden, backed by a substantial wall.

It occurred to me that the figure would make a welcome change from the rather boring circular targets we normally use, and might at the same time give at least some of the marksmen something of a sense of purpose.

ARTHUR PEMBERTON
Neuport Pagnell,
Buckinghamshire

Choice gems from the treasury of the wisdom of Albania

TODAY I am bringing you some of my favourite Albanian proverbs. Albanian proverbs, if you didn't know, are very different from our proverbs. Our proverbs are terse and practical, like "Don't count your chickens till they're hatched" or "Many hands make light work". Albanian proverbs are more poetic and linger in the mind longer, even though they seem to have no practical use at all in real life. Anyway, see for yourself with this new selection...

Celibacy used to be a way of life. Nowadays, it's just something to try after you've tried everything else.

Three things to avoid: a man wearing a suit, a woman wearing sun-

glasses in her hair and a dog wearing a muzzle.

The first Christmas card always comes from someone you weren't going to send a card to.

There is nothing quite so sad or so useless as a completed crossword puzzle.

Abdication is a one-way ticket. There is no word meaning the opposite of "abdicate".

The man who thinks that the answer to the problem of not having enough time for breakfast is to have breakfast before he goes to

bed the night before has got more problems than he thinks he has got.

When you wash your hands in someone else's kitchen, you always dry your hands on the wrong thing.

When you hear a princess preaching against land mines, remember that until quite recently her forebears were happily setting man-traps on their own land.

What do crowds of actors murmur in countries where rhubarb is unknown?

Three people to avoid: a man hold-



MILES KINGTON

The first Christmas card always comes from someone you weren't going to send a card to

ing a clipboard who just wants to ask you a few questions, a bishop in a bad temper and anyone who

claims to remember your mother well.

What makes a town child different from a country child is that he has never seen a cow being milked - and the same is true today of country children.

The 18th century had the right idea about wigs; they tried to make them look as different from real hair as possible.

The most law-abiding and careful motorists are driving stolen cars.

One of the sad things about Alzheimer's Disease is that nobody

can remember who Alzheimer was.

Just before we sell a car, we polish and clean it into a state where, suddenly, we no longer want to sell it.

Has anybody ever cooked the recipe printed on a tea cloth?

To come last in a race is no disgrace, for a horse.

A playwright who condemns a character to be killed in the first 10 minutes of a play should remem-

ber that he has also condemned an actor to wait two hours for the curtain call.

The secret of the English is that when they are called Sassenach, or limey, or anything, they never feel belittled.

How did the man who made the first sausage know what it was going to look like?

Fellow passengers' newspapers are always more interesting than fellow passengers' books.

All these proverbs are taken from the Great Big Book of Albanian Proverbs, 1998 edition.

CH 111015/SD

lessons of Camelot
In the year 2001 let's not hand over National Lottery to Mr. Cameron. Notwithstanding his offer to sans profit, he ought to be enough on his hands looking after his fair from clockwork way. Nor should we involve any entrepreneur or pincers. The one of Camelot (admittedly a pincers) of LOT) have been learned.

be people's lottery would be run by the people and for the people. Let efficient National and the Lottery would run in tandem. With the coming National Lottery Commission in charge, Britain could have trading free from greed. At the same time, top prizes should be reduced to £1m so that more punters won the lesser sums. The mid-week draw has its charm and should go. If there is any televising of results it should be by way of a five-minute slot on all channels without favour.

BRUNTON

case to act on
contrary to your report "Sleep in abuse of patients' overwinter", the British Psychological Society did remove Dr Slade from the Register of Psychologists. The rationale of our disciplinary committee for allowing Dr Slade to remain in membership of the register was so that we might have some control over his future. This case highlights the need for statutory control of psychologists, something the Psychological Society has been campaigning for since 1990s.

latest communications will indicate that whilst in favour of statutory it is made, they are not red to find government the legislation on the doorsteps. Perhaps this case will make the government to act.

H. Psychological Society

as scapegoats
premature spinsterhood women east of Berlin to Bridget Jones goes to test". 21 November, Haring LeBar relay the news masks the analysis any le Once again, men are in sex, their fragile egos tested by independent women. But at least Bridget's attention from inadequacy.

you resenting high-care most men are only too to be relieved of the inner's burden. The is female sexuality which is fixated with power. In differentials, Bridget is an incremental increase partner. Nor has she the protective instinct to draw men to share their with their partners. rest therapy for Bridget to confront her own need. Using men to solve nothing.

W.SCHOFIELD

dope

target

id someone please tell me can acquire one of those recent prints of M. Thatcher 24 November?"

ve a 25-yard air rifle shot the too far to call it a tiny back garden, backed planted wall

told me that the figure take a welcome change rather boring circular normally use, and might me time rate at least some payment something of a surprise.

C. PEMBERTON

Pugnacious

handshake

nia
has also condemned an it two hours for the cut

of the English is that are collected for scratch or anything, they never feel

a man who made the get know what it was like.

singers' newspapers more interesting than buyers' books.
newsletters taken from the Book of Alliums

99 edition

THE INDEPENDENT

1 CANADA SQUARE, CANARY WHARF, LONDON E14 5DL TELEPHONE: 0171 293 2000 OR 0171 345 2000 FAX: 0171 293 2435 OR 0171 345 2435
THE INDEPENDENT ON THE INTERNET: WWW.INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

The Law Lords have set the path. Let's follow it

AFTER 40 days of confusion and growing concern that the game is lost, the law lords have redeemed the reputation of the emboldened and made a historic decision to keep Pinochet in the UK to face extradition to Spain.

The decision was not unanimous. Two judges voted for release, three against. Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, still has the final decision of whether to allow extradition to go ahead. In the days to come, and in the light of the full published judgment, there will no doubt be all sorts of legal arguments over the implications of the decisions.

But in this wondrous, and unexpected, moment, let us be clear on one thing. Lords Nicholls, Steyn and Hoffman have made a judgment of profound importance not just for this country and visiting dictators and criminals, but for the whole course of justice for crimes against humanity.

This was a ruling made under the full glare of world interest and arrived at after only the fullest and uniquely open consideration of the evidence from all interested parties. At the end of the day the highest court in Britain judged that General Pinochet was not protected by his former position as head of state from the full rigours of international law, the accusations of his accusers and the cries of his victims.

For a British Government that stumbled into this extraordinary crisis as much through blundering as design, yesterday's judgment may have come as something of an embarrassment. It would have been so much easier to have bathed in the warm glow of high morality while leaving it to the courts to prevent the practical consequences.

Now Jack Straw has to face the consequences of arresting a visiting dignitary seeking to buy arms and gain medical treatment in this country. It would seem almost inconceivable that he could use his authority to prevent actual extradition to Spain.

This will not be entirely welcome to a Chilean political establishment that has tried to smooth over transition to democracy by allowing Pinochet to continue in public life untried and unapologetic. It will be objected to by some legal opinion that sees such a judgment taking this country and others into uncharted waters full of doubtful legal implications. It will certainly be objected to by those who feel that Pinochet's crimes should be ignored because of the fact that he was, in Lady Thatcher's awful phrase, "a good friend to this country".

But the Chilean dictator's crimes cannot be ignored. They are too horrendous and too deliberate for that. It is precisely because he was in charge at the time that Pinochet should be held responsible. In deciding that Pinochet could not be extradited because the crimes alleged were committed when he was head of state, the Appeals Court – the initial judgment of which the House

Lords has now overruled – was in danger of declaring that Hitler had he been caught, should not have been tried in Nuremberg while his minions were.

In saying that justice should be left to the Chileans, the government there is in danger of suggesting that Spain has no right to justice for its citizens killed under military rule there, or that Britain should not seek justice for its citizens murdered by Pol Pot, Saddam Hussein or Idi Amin. Which is precisely the point. Coming on top of the first arraignments at the Bosnian War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague and the agreement earlier this autumn in Rome to establish a permanent tribunal for crimes against humanity, yesterday's judgment by the law lords has immeasurably strengthened the move to hold the world's dictators responsible for their actions.

If dozens of visitors now feel a great deal less secure about visiting Britain, all to the good. They shouldn't feel secure here, or anywhere. Now that Pinochet has been brought to book, could Slobodan Milosevic be next?

The market's rise is tomorrow's trouble

SO IT'S not doom and gloom, but boom and boom after all. The American economy, it seems, has shrugged off fears of recession and is set for "surprising growth" this year. Between July and September gross domestic product grew by a healthy 3.9 per cent, according to the US government. More strikingly, the US stock market rally has brought the Dow Jones average back up to levels of this summer. Is it time to crack open the bubbly?

What happened to imminent depression? Well, the American public just wouldn't believe it. Consumers and traders saw that the Federal Reserve Board wouldn't let their financial system collapse once it had rescued the biggest speculators and their hedge fund. A few interest rate cuts followed and public confidence surged back.

But keep the bubble on ice. Economic growth (and especially the stock market) behaves like a bubble. To avoid a sudden explosion, some way must be found to let the pressure out; but there is no way to prick a bubble slowly. Instead, the best hope is to contain growth. Thus the Fed was not so worried that the recession in Asia and Russia would have "contagious effects" in the US: if it helped to slow growth then, in that respect, it would be welcome.

But it hasn't. In the short term, that's good news: US growth might help Asia export its way to recovery. But in the longer term, it makes adjustment even harder. For the first time since the 1930s, American families have become net borrowers. The further they get into debt, the bigger the shock when – not if – the bubble finally bursts. Just as Japan failed to deflate its speculative bubble in the 1980s and later ran into deep recession, so failure to ease growth now stores up trouble for the future. The Fed must now try to cap any sense of euphoria: if that means no more cuts in interest rates, or even a rise, then so be it.

Is there nothing so crass that it won't be embraced by television?



DAVID AARONOVITCH

Right now dozens of people are beavering away at the base of a pyramid of cheap, vulgar programme-making

turned calls. But even the polite letters of rejection to ideas such as *Who Put Heroin In My Kidneys? Sweets?* suggest a weary familiarity with other similar proposals. In one case the fastidious police James Boyle, controller of Radio 4, reassures the entirely fictitious Ms Reed that he does indeed remember her from a past meeting in Bristol. He does not warn, however, to *With Friends Like This...*, a programme in which the main guest is "a celeb who is thought by everyone to be a total pillock".

The same cannot be said for the TV critic of *The Sun*, Garry Bushell, who has already hosted programmes on satellite and terrestrial television. Reed asks him to anchor a new cable show entitled *Topless Gladiators*.

"We're looking for a really cool presenter," writes Reed. "That's you"

There are, of course, many unre-

Garry! Vulgar without being irreverent." Garry is interested. As is Mike Hollingsworth, agent for Judge James Pickles, who is "most happy in principle, to allow his go forward."

Must Have Must Do, is Reed's idea for a Channel 5 style-counselling programme. So she writes off to Tara Palmer-Tomkinson, telling the absurd socialite that, "what we're looking for, yeah, are two or three posh tarts to act as style gurus." Back comes a letter from M + M Management: "Tara's diary is now getting very booked up, but do please get in touch with us and we can see if we're able to work together."

Now it's the turn of the Very Reverend Dr John Moses, the Dean of St Paul's. Three weeks after the death of Diana, Reed invites the Dean to participate in a Christmas Compassion video to be called *Diana, The People's Princess: Lest We Forget*. In addition to a filmed address from the Dean, Reed plans to have Chris de Burgh singing "There's a new star in heaven tonight" followed by reminiscences of Diana. But this is not all. Reed continues: "Lest we forget there were other tragedians during the year: Esther Rantzen and a group of grieving mothers will then recite prayers over footage of catastrophes (pensioners over a cliff, lots forced Eastbay by playground funds, whatever)." Does the Dean tell Reed politely to get lost? Nope. "I am agreeable," he replies, "to contributing to the video you are planning... in the way that you suggest."

Pickles, Bushell, Palmer-Tomkinson or their agents could be said to dis-

play a lack of dignity when tempted by small amounts of money and bit parts in preposterous TV programmes. But in an industry where the Duchess of York really does act as a sub-Kirby, how absurd was it for them to fall for Reed/Donaldson?

Nor is the desire to enhance celebrity at any cost the only lesson to be gleaned from the Heart Felt Letters. In at least two cases major celebrities, who fail to respond in any way to the sub-Groucho Club callousness of Ms Reed, are smoked out by an interesting subterfuge. When Richard Branson and Michael Portillo cannot be contacted, a new director called Winston Obogo enters the plot. He makes it clear that Heart Felt Productions is now an all-black company. "Hey, give it up large in support of the brothers!" he tells Portillo, who he wishes to participate in *The Day my Whole World Collapsed*. "Get your sorry white arse into gear!" he demands of Branson. Both reply remarkably quickly.

We are now at the very beginning

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"At last we can have some justice which has been denied for so long."
Pedro Fuentes, Chilean exile, on the decision to allow the extradition of General Pinochet

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"A letter is an unannounced visit, the postman the agent of surprise. One ought to reserve an hour a week for receiving letters and afterwards take a bath."
Friedrich Nietzsche, German philosopher



WHO WOULD YOU TRUST TO HELP YOU IN A BREAKDOWN EMERGENCY?

...THAT'S THE JOB OF THE AA

The AA has the largest highly trained patrol force in the world, with the skills and equipment to deal with a wide range of breakdown situations. With our advanced deployment technology, AA Patrols get to members, on average, in just 35 minutes. We also fix more cars by the roadside than anyone else, getting you going again quickly and safely. And remember, with AA Personal Membership you are covered in any car, as driver or passenger. Plus something on pornography.

JOIN FROM
£41

TO OUR MEMBERS WE'RE THE 4th EMERGENCY SERVICE

TO JOIN
OR RENEW
CALL FREE
0800 444 999
QUOTE REF: 600
E-mail: AA@AA.co.uk
Fax: 01908 644 999
Web: www.aa.com



IF THERE could have been any doubt as to what Dr Jack Kevorkian is promoting as he "assists" in the deaths of his fellow human beings, it was dispelled Sunday night. Jack Kevorkian is promoting Jack Kevorkian. He has been tried and acquitted three times on charges of assisting suicides. But unless the videotape turns out to be an elaborate hoax, this time he should be charged with murder. Kevorkian claimed on *60 Minutes* that if

MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD
Dr Jack Kevorkian's campaign to legalise euthanasia

is paved with disgrace. Lingering depiction of an individual being put to death on television is an act of barbarism. *60 Minutes* disgraced news institutions in the same

manner that Kevorkian disgraces medicine.

Boston Globe

DR KEVORKIAN'S descent from "assisted suicide" to ac-

tive euthanasia illustrates the wisdom of Michigan's voters in rejecting a ballot issue that would have legalised assisted suicide earlier this month. We all want some latitude in determining how we and our loved ones will die. We hope there will be adequate pain management, and many of us hope there will be a minimum of pointless treatment. But do we as a society really want to condone the killing of patients?

Detroit News

THE COST of Kevorkianism can be measured by this story: about a year ago a resident of Oakland County shot and wounded his dog. The Prosecutor was inclined not to prosecute, until a public outcry compelled him to do so. Woodward was convicted and given a year's probation. A society that cares more about animals than people can't be surprised if it starts treating people like animals.

New York Post

PANDORA

WHEN PANDORA received a call from someone claiming to be an Islington constituent of Chris Smith MP who had been telephoned and asked to lend his name to a letter-to-the-editor defending Smith, but actually penned by a volunteer member of his staff, it was hard to give this tale any credence. Sure enough, a call to Stewart Godfrey, Smith's constituency agent, brought a swift denial that any such practise was taking place. "I'm the only paid member of staff here and I deny that I made that call or asked anyone else to," said Godfrey. "As far as I'm concerned there's been no criticism of Chris in the local papers for months, even years." Sadly, the same claim is not entirely true about the coverage Saint Chris has received from the national press.

IS FOOTBALL manager Harry Redknapp about to leave West Ham to take up the helm at Blackburn Rovers, which Roy Evans departed last week? Pandora hears that

Blackburn have offered Redknapp four times his current salary (rumoured to be about £4,000 a week). Although he's loath to leave his current position, he's thinking hard about this glittering incentive. The recent spat between him and West Ham chairman, Peter Storrie, may influence his decision about whether or not to move north. When Redknapp described the West Ham board's sale of Andy Impey as a move "made by people who know nothing about football", Storrie took umbrage. After an emergency board meeting on Monday, Redknapp appeared unrepentant. If he was feeling at all restless before, the Blackburn offer might well prove irresistible.

Unfortunately, Redknapp did not return Pandora's phone calls yesterday.



AFTER THE fiasco at the recent Labour Conference, Richard Branson is obviously feeling the mounting pressure to improve his rail services. He's just come up with a novel way to motivate the workers at Aston, in Birmingham, who are building trains for its West Coast line together with Fiat Ferrovie. He distributed 200 single Virgin Atlantic tickets to the US, but kept the return halves. They will be handed out only if the

trains are completed to deadline. Let's hope none of the Aston workers are thinking of emigrating.

YESTERDAY PANDORA spoke to Rupert Steiner's "first break" selling stories about his schoolmates to the tabloids. Lo and behold, another exciting update on Steiner's forthcoming book launch has just arrived in the post, including an invitation to a party on 14 December hosted by John Jay, the *Sunday Times* Business News editor. "This party will be one of the largest gatherings of millionaires and entrepreneurs for some time," a note assures us, and helpfully includes names of those great men who have already promised to attend, including Richard Branson, Bernie Ecclestone, David Sullivan and Peter Stringfellow. Pandora wouldn't miss this one for the world! Of course, in view of young Steiner's talent for flogging stories about his chums to the tabloids, it seems wise to wear a disguise to the bash.

"YOU WON'T sell your own grandmother," runs the charming advertisement from employment firm Robert Half International, next to a picture of a sweet old granny. "But how about a relative stranger?" Sure, why not, you hear yourself saying, as you read on why not sell a stranger or two? "You're a sharp, successful salesperson, but you've still got ethics." Tons of ethics, now how much will you give me for this lovely little stranger?

AFTER THE New York premiere of the film version of *Little Voice*, stars Michael Caine and Jane Horrocks are both being touted as possible Oscar winners. At the launch party earlier this week, Caine adopted the role of Mr Modesty, telling one reporter that he'd been absent from films for two years "mostly sitting at home reading scripts and generally being a pain in the neck to Shakira". However, Shakira Caine (pictured) who attended the party with the couple's daughter Natasha, was having none of it. "He wasn't a pain in the neck. He was adorable, like a little boy, out there in the garden. You should have seen him." We'll all be able to see Caine mugging it up with his old chum Sean Connery in the March issue of *Vanity Fair*.

AFTER THE fiasco at the recent Labour Conference, Richard Branson is obviously feeling the mounting pressure to improve his rail services. He's just come up with a novel way to motivate the workers at Aston, in Birmingham, who are building trains for its West Coast line together with Fiat Ferrovie. He distributed 200 single Virgin Atlantic tickets to the US, but kept the return halves. They will be handed out only if the

MARY WHITEHOUSE was right all along. There is far too much blaring, brazen sex on British television. And too much cockery too. There have been at least 20 programmes on these in the last two weeks including *Naked, Vice, Anatomy of Desire, Sex and Shopping*, not to mention cooking with virginia Della and alluring Nigella.

Maybe middle-class white Britons feel an irrepressible need to show their disdainful European cousins that they are not repressed, inadequate or third-rate when it comes to the lascivious things of life, but stuffing the channels with sex organs and oral dressed in frilly lingerie only reveals a pathetic sense of inferiority. What's more, these programmes are putting me off food and sex.

The first will probably do me no harm, but the second is ruining one of the main delights of my life. The problem with being mercilessly exposed to television "pornography", as Mary describes it, is not that we will all become even more sex mad and have it off with customers at photocopying shops in broad daylight, but that we will simply give up

on one of the most natural of human activities.

Most sex between consenting adults is not about having your bottom washed and powdered by a pretend mother who then pretends to breast feed you (three programmes dwelt on this one) for £200 a session or, as four programmes suggested, having your balls crushed by a lady with long boots

and sharp stilettos. Most couples who are happy with one another enjoy warm sex because it does not have to be a bloody performance.

You desire one another so much, so regularly that there is no need for satin night-gowns or purple spiky dildos. You can have unwarmed legs (bliss) and smelly feet as you collapse into that old bed at the end of an exhausting day, but for the blessed none of this matters because of the intimacy that time brings. You may no longer thrash about until dawn, but what you have instead is quality sex which comes out of knowing what turns you both on.

Perhaps I am being dangerously presumptuous here. Maybe my partner watches these programmes he begins to yearn for that which he does not have and cannot have. Television is invading our retreat and manipulating our longings.

What makes us watch these programmes now - incredulity and a certain arrogance - may lead in some unquantifiable way to corrupt what has taken years to build up. And this must happen to some people. Suggestion and validation

provided by the relentless obsessions with unusual sexual acts means the ordinary becomes unacceptable, an affront to our right to be on a sensual rollercoaster.

I am even more troubled by the way the essence of sexuality is killed off by such programmes. D H Lawrence understood this when he condemned pornography as "an attempt to insult sex, to do dirt on it". It does this by making us watch what should be intensely private.

Appla Benn, the first professional woman writer in this country, said that love ceases to be a pleasure when it ceases to be a secret. I think this is even more true for sex. I love what I do with my loved one in my bed because what happens is unique to us and is inaccessible to anyone else. Even saying this is a kind of betrayal of that principle.

There is of course a need for information. There is no bliss in ignorance and I speak as somebody who comes from a community where none of our languages have a word for the editor - but there is none either when your private parts become public property.

There is something very sexy too about modesty and restraint. I have just re-read John Berger's old, but wonderful book, *Ways of Seeing*, in which he says that a lack of modesty leads to a loss of mystery and shifts attention from the eyes, the mouth, the shoulders - all of which can convey many and complex messages - to the sexual parts whose formation suggests an utterly compelling but single process.

The Horse Whisperer is an unforgettable sexy film because the ferocious desire between the lovers is only seen in their eyes and twitchy hands. Do you remember the perforated sheet in *Midnight's Children* which a young woman used to show bits of herself to the young doctor treating her "ailments"? Seeing only parts of this woman drove him mad with physical longing.

Believe me, it works. Never strut around showing your all; cover yourself even in bed and choose the parts you would reveal. And remember to save your sex life by turning off that filth on the box. It is doing none of us any good.

Spare me from more naked bodies



YASMIN ALIBHAI-BROWN
You desire one another so much there is no need for satin night-gowns or purple spiky dildos

on one of the most natural of human activities.

Most sex between consenting adults is not about having your bottom washed and powdered by a pretend mother who then pretends to breast feed you (three programmes dwelt on this one) for £200 a session or, as four programmes suggested, having your balls crushed by a lady with long boots

When Europe's socialists got together in Brussels last week, they called on the ECB to aim at reducing unemployment as well as inflation when setting European interest rates. There was also considerable support - though not from Gordon Brown - for Lafontaine's proposal to "harmonise" taxes in Europe. By harmonise, of course, Lafontaine means making everyone else's taxes as high as Germany's. Incidentally, he also favours increasing German corporation taxes, already among Europe's highest.

It really is lousy timing. Here is a project which has far more appeal to economic liberals than to socialists. It can only hope to succeed if Europe's sclerotic labour market is liberalised. It will almost certainly sweep away the remaining national barriers in the European capital market. Big business leaders, with relatively few exceptions, like the idea because a single currency makes life much easier for multinational accountants. Every now and then, they write fatuous letters to the *Financial Times* to prove it.

And which politicians are going to preside over this capitalist beanfeast? You guessed it: Europe's Social Democrats. And not just them, but also parties that are supposedly to the left of social democracy. In France we have a government that includes a number of Communists. In Italy the prime minister himself is a Communist. In Germany we have a coalition in which key ministries (including the Foreign Office) are held by Greens. And in Britain New Labour simultaneously sidles up to the Liberal Democrats (in many ways more left wing than Tony Blair on economic issues) and bickers with its own Old Labour rank and file.

Now, of course, the project of

European economic and monetary union (EMU) has plenty of socialist fingerprints on it. Jacques Delors was one of the key figures responsible for shoving it to the top of the EU agenda in the Eighties. And the present generation of leftist politicians yields to no one in its readiness to mouth pro-EMU platitudes. But it has become increasingly

clear in the past months that there is a big difference between the Left's vision of EMU and the plan agreed (by mainly right-wing governments) at Maastricht.

According to the treaty (see Title 2, Article G, Title VI, Articles 102a to 103m, plus Protocols 3, 4, 5, 6, 10 and 11), the European Central Bank (ECB) will be completely independent from politicians. Its objective will be price stability (since defined by the ECB at keeping inflation between 0 and 2 per cent). As for member governments, under the Stability Pact that was demanded by the previous German administration, they will have to keep their budgets more or less in balance.

This is very far from being agreeable to such luminaries of the European Left as Oskar Lafontaine, the German Finance Minister and, according to yesterday's *Sun*, "the most dangerous man in Europe" (lucky for David Yelland, come to think of it, that Mr Lafontaine very definitely isn't gay). Nor does it appeal much to Dominique Strauss-Kahn, his French counterpart.

Now, it is not wholly mad to argue that a consequence of the single currency must be a convergence of tax policies - because, in a completely integrated capital market, it will be even more tempting for investors to seek out the low-tax regions. Gradually, imperceptibly and despite the denials of disingenuous Europeans, the European Union is evolving into a federal state; and one of the characteristics of federal states is that they tend to end up with relatively modest variations in state taxes (though seldom complete uniformity).

But where Europe's socialists

have missed the point is that

harmonisation (particularly for

corporation tax) needs to be down-

ward not upward; otherwise multina-

tionalists will simply relocate

outside Euroland altogether.

Probably the most perniciously

idiotic aspect of the Lafontaine agenda is its vulgar Keynesianism.

The reason for Continental Europe's

shockingly high unemployment rate,

we are told, is that European

workers are not paid enough. If

only they had more cash they would

buy more goods, and more jobs

would magically be created.

Who taught these people eco-

nomics? Could it be more startlingly obvious that such a policy would

siphon off money from investment, thus increasing the level of unemployment? As they say in the States: like, duh.

But there is something about all that that I really love, and that is the Left's desire to get rid of the rules about balanced budgets. This is an old, old story. After all, what are socialist governments for if not to increase public spending, and when do they ever get round to raising tax by as much? Even Mr Brown, certainly the most fiscally conservative of Europe's finance ministers, has been at it, bumping up spending in the upswing, apparently forgetting that it will go up by itself in the next downswing. No, you can bet your bottom euro: not one of these governments will run a balanced budget in 1999-2000, and the year after will be worse.

Why is this good? It is good because a consequence of the single currency must be a convergence of tax policies - because, in a completely integrated capital market, it will be even more tempting for investors to seek out the low-tax regions. Gradually, imperceptibly and despite the denials of disingenuous Europeans, the European Union is evolving into a federal state; and one of the characteristics of federal states is that they tend to end up with relatively modest variations in state taxes (though seldom complete uniformity).

But where Europe's socialists

have missed the point is that

harmonisation (particularly for

corporation tax) needs to be down-

ward not upward; otherwise multina-

tionalists will simply relocate

outside Euroland altogether.

Probably the most perniciously

idiotic aspect of the Lafontaine agenda is its vulgar Keynesianism.

The reason for Continental Europe's

shockingly high unemployment rate,

we are told, is that European

workers are not paid enough. If

only they had more cash they would

buy more goods, and more jobs

would magically be created.

Who taught these people eco-

nomics? Could it be more startlingly obvious that such a policy would



The Sun's page three, showing its page one in German

The single currency will soon be a reality. Huge efforts will be made to convince us that it is working just fine. For a year or so, Eurosceptics will have to grind their teeth, their arguments apparently discredited. This will be very uncomfortable for Mr Hague, but also good for him - because the smoother the first year of EMU, the more likely our weathercock prime minister is to join it. And if the past is anything to go by, Britain will probably join at the worst moment: the moment when a global economic downturn combines with Europe's fiscal and monetary policy mismatch to plunge Europe into recession.

What a sublime irony we are left with: that the only sort of government that could make EMU work would be a Thatcherite one - in all 11 countries.

Niall Ferguson's *'The World's Banker: A History of the House of Rothschild'* has just been published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson

The best thing about Europe is that they'll wreck the euro



NIALL FERGUSON
The most perniciously idiotic aspect of the Lafontaine agenda is its vulgar Keynesianism

clear in the past months that there is a big difference between the Left's vision of EMU and the plan agreed (by mainly right-wing governments) at Maastricht.

According to the treaty (see Title 2, Article G, Title VI, Articles 102a to 103m, plus Protocols 3, 4, 5, 6, 10 and 11), the European Central Bank (ECB) will be completely independent from politicians. Its objective will be price stability (since defined by the ECB at keeping inflation between 0 and 2 per cent). As for member governments, under the Stability Pact that was demanded by the previous German administration, they will have to keep their budgets more or less in balance.

This is very far from being agreeable to such luminaries of the European Left as Oskar Lafontaine, the German Finance Minister and, according to yesterday's *Sun*, "the most dangerous man in Europe" (lucky for David Yelland, come to think of it, that Mr Lafontaine very definitely isn't gay). Nor does it appeal much to Dominique Strauss-Kahn, his French counterpart.

More polarisation - as some become more mobile, the majority are being left in the dust. In 1950 there were about 27 miles a day. It is now about 27 miles a day, and forecast to rise by 2025 to over 60 miles a day. The recent Transport White Paper proclaimed policy to reduce the rate of growth.

Put another way, given present problems of congestion, pollution and declining public transport, the new policy aspires, it seems to me, to ensure that things will get worse more slowly. Most of the time, money and effort currently being spent on transport are devoted to the development of the pollution-free perpetual motion engine - or as close to it as the laws of physics and chemistry permit. Let us be optimistic and assume that science and technology will succeed in this goal - let us assume that engines become hugely cleaner and more efficient. What is likely to happen

if the realisation of these forecasts is assisted by technological developments that make flying and driving cleaner, but also cheaper? Certain problems, it seems to me, will remain:

Less child-friendliness - as the world fills with more strangers and more traffic, restrictions on children's freedom will increase. In 1971, 80 per cent of seven- and eight-year-old children got to school on their own, unaccompanied by an adult. Now it is closer to

zero. The two main reasons that parents give for denying their children the freedom that they enjoyed as children are fear of traffic and fear of strayed.

More danger - for those not in cars.

Fatter and less fit people - with less exercise built into daily routines.

And less democracy - as the majority have less influence over, and diminished trust in

the institutions that govern their lives. I conclude with a rather gloomy speculation. I think we are heading into trouble. As

odies

There is something very sexy in modesty and restraint. I just re-read John Berger's old wonderful book, *Ways of Seeing*, in which he says that a lack of sex leads to a loss of mystery. It shifts attention from the eyes, mouth, the shoulders - all of which can convey many and complex messages - to the sexual, literally compelling but single message.

Horse Whisperer is an undeniably sexy film because the sexual desire between the lovers is seen in their eyes and by hands. Do you remember the perforated sheet in *Midnight Express*, in which a young woman shows bits of herself to the doctor treating her? Seeing only parts of the man drove him mad with longing.

Believe me, it works. Never stop showing your all; cover even in bed and choose what you would reveal. And never to save your sex life in bed off that fifth on the box, leaving none of us any good.

rope euro



Sun's page three, shown one in German

he single currency will soon arrive. Huge efforts will be made to convince us that it is working. For a year or so, Eurocentric have to grind their teeth at the events apparently discomforting us will be very uncomfortable in Europe, but also good for business. The smoother the first few EMU, the more likely it is that the next prime minister of the end of the past is anything to Britain will probably join at the moment. The moment when economic downturn comes with Europe's fiscal and monetary policy mismatch tipping into recession.

that a sublime irony we are

that the only sort of government that could make EMU work

would be a Thatcherite one - and

countries.

U. Ferguson's *The Work of a Lifetime: A History of the House of Commons* has not been published by Hodder & Stoughton

ability

Parliament. His condition extends from Carlisle to Liverpool and contains over a million voters. I find it difficult to imagine that his constituents will feel their individual votes to be of great significance.

As hyper mobility increases the scale of government diminishes the significance of the local. It diminishes the interest of the voter. It goes along with which is a rather significant.

A few years ago I received an invitation to speak at a conference of science fiction writers about transporting time. I asserted to those more familiar with the genre than I, and hoping to contradict them, that nothing dedicated to speculations about futures in which distance had been compressed by speed and technology could not be a plausible example of working democracy.

I was not contradicted. In fact, government and futures - from space to Star Wars and past to Star Trek - is, it seems, a typical hierarchy.

The lunatic with anthrax



CHARLES ARTHUR

You can aim a Cruise missile at Saddam's headquarters - but not at a lone madman

SINCE IT is the time of year for shopping, and the Internet is the fashionable way to shop, let's see if we can find something suitable for a dictator such as Saddam Hussein. How about a biological bomb? Since March, however, it has become rather harder to buy anthrax over the Net. The American Type Culture Collection (ATCC), now based in Manassas, Virginia, used to let you order items such as freeze-dried botulism and Black Death electronically: all you needed was to have a credit card and an address and to persuade the ATCC that you were a "suitably qualified scientist".

Belatedly, the US government realised that the latter requirement was as easy as forging a prescription; at about the same time, two men were arrested in New York on charges of possessing anthrax. Allegedly, they planned to wreak havoc by letting it loose on the subway or posting a contaminated envelope to Bill Clinton. Anyway, ye olde ATCC Internet gift shoppe for deadly bugs was shut down.

So, no Christmas present for Saddam. Instead, with the raised temperatures over the Iraqi regime's refusal to comply with the UN weapon inspectors, the British Government is pushing for a strengthening of the 1972 Biological and Toxic Weapons Convention. The 150 or so signatories agree not to produce such weapons, except in quantities sufficient to make defences against them.

However, as the Foreign Office points out, it is "really the only major international arms control treaty which doesn't contain any teeth". It proposes a 16-week grind of negotiations, beginning next January in Geneva, designed to put exactly the same teeth into the 1972 Convention as already exist in the Nuclear Weapons and Chemical Weapons Conventions. The intention is to sign a fresh version in 2000 (in London, it is hoped) which will give the ageing treaty some fresh dentures.

However, while such aims are, of course, laudable, they really just hit the easy targets. The threat these days from biological warfare does not really come from governments but from individuals.

Consider this: why would a government want to use a biological



Biological weapons are treated with extreme care at centres such as Porton Down, but individuals can still find ways of acquiring dangerous substances Alastair Macdonald

weapon during a war? The military does not have any enduring affection for biological warfare. Any enthusiasm quickly wears off when scientists explain the associated problems. Biological weapons are difficult to target accurately, slow to act and can linger exactly the territory you wish to conquer. It's like sowing landmines ahead of you.

That has not stopped them being used from time to time throughout history. As was noted in this paper on Tuesday, a favourite ruse of the Tartars in the 14th century was to catapult plague victims' bodies over besieged city walls. However, the lack of understanding of quite how bacteria and viruses spread and multiply meant that biological warfare had to wait until the 20th century for the technology to arrive that could control it.

Even then, scientists kept discovering that biowar was a sort of technological Golem, a beast that would not do their bidding.

Anthrax, so carefully tested on the Scottish island of Grindavik during the last war, contaminated the soil for 44 years; it was only considered "clear" after two years' work injecting formaldehyde into the ground to kill the spores.

Those problems with biological weapons mirror the fears that some of the scientists working on the Manhattan Project that produced the atomic bomb had - that detonating the first bomb would trigger a chain reaction that would set the entire atmosphere alight and kill the world at a stroke. But because bombs, even atomic ones, are inert, they were able to calculate the dangers involved; eventually they decided that the cataclysm would not happen. The same is not true for biological weapons. If you dropped anthrax on Saddam Hussein, it might kill him; but it would also spread throughout Baghdad and linger long after his regime had died. The Iraqi citizens would be in the same position as the sheep that were the unwitting test subjects of the Grindavik experiments all those years ago.

That doesn't mean, of course, that the military can't use biological weapons. Instead of deploying them, they talk about them. Propaganda is cheaper. Take one of the most popular "urban myth" forms of biological weapon: the "ethnic bomb". Earlier this month *The Sunday Times* solemnly declared that "Israel is

working on a biological weapon that would harm Arabs but not Jews, according to Israeli military and intelligence sources. The weapon... is seen as Israel's response to Iraq's threat of chemical and biological attacks".

The article went on to say that "Israeli scientists are trying to... identify genes carried by some Arabs, then create a genetically-modified bacterium or virus". To some, that tale may have rung a bell: June, South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission was told by one of the apartheid regime's scientists, Jan Lourens, of the former regime's search for a bacterium that would sterilise blacks without affecting whites.

Let's get the "ethnic-bomb" into perspective. Bacteria and viruses survive best by infecting anyone they come across; so they certainly aren't race-specific. The genes that lead to the physical differences that we perceive as "race" are so tightly interwoven with everything else that makes us human that identifying them in the first place is still a pipedream. The Human Genome Project, which aims to unravel the genetic blueprint of humanity, does

not expect to finish decoding the 100,000-odd genes of human DNA until sometime in the next millennium. The whole nature of genetics would not allow an "ethnic-bomb", requiring as it does the picking of particular genes and then the tailoring of a bug that somehow latches on to those. Furthermore, Jews and Arabs share a closer common genetic heritage than many other races. Those Israeli scientists have struck lucky; they are on a wild goose chase but are carried on a gravy train. So any reasonable government would not actually use biological weapons. Apart from making them the pariah of the world, it would have an unpredictable outcome: all you need is to capture a few infected prisoners and you have brought the trouble back to your own doorstep.

Considerations like those do not trouble lunatics, however; and those are the people who really pose a threat. Bear in mind that after Iraq's gassing of its own Kurdish people, the biggest casualty list from chemical or biological warfare in the past decade comes from individuals - particularly the Aum Shinrikyo religious sect, which released home-made Sarin nerve gas on the Japanese underground

in March 1995, killing 11 people and injuring 5,500. You can get the basic ingredients (such as growth medium and potentially dangerous bacteria) for biological weapons at most universities. One of the men arrested in the US with anthrax was entitled - in a professional sense - to have it. The question is: what was he going to do with it?

The Foreign Office says that a revised biological weapons convention won't cover individuals: "One would expect most countries would have their own controls and legislation to stop rogue individuals," said a spokesman. "But, yes, the treaties are only binding on states and governments. It's more difficult to tackle... individuals."

In this increasingly atomised world, though, it's individuals we need to worry about, not the governments whose hands are so tied by threats of sanctions and reprisal. You can aim a Cruise missile at Saddam's headquarters but not at a lone madman. Bearing in mind what happened when the Animal Liberation Front freed farmed mink earlier this year (the animals began wiping out local species), what we should really worry about is the rise of the Germ Liberation Front.

RIGHT OF REPLY

ANNE HAMMERSTAD



A former ballet dancer responds to a recent article on choreographer William Forsythe

WILLIAM FORSYTHE, of the Frankfurt Ballet, believes that stretching dancers to the limit makes good art. He thinks that dancers should be made to give "a little more than they think they can". But he and other choreographers, if they want to involve dancers in the creation of art, should remember they are working with human beings.

I quit ballet dancing when I realised we were being treated as objects to be moulded. The physical and mental strains we were put under were often so great that our ability to contribute was drained away.

From very early stages in life (I, like many, began dancing as a young child) a dancer is treated as a body to be framed into the right shape, rather than as a human who will also develop personality and a sense of art.

Because of such treatment, many dancers are put under great physical and mental stress. The well-known effects of anorexia, bulimia, physical injury and low self-esteem all follow. If she is trying to survive and compete for a place in a company, how is a dancer to find the energy to develop a vision of her own art?

Even for smaller and less demanding companies than Frankfurt Ballet, such as the Norwegian National Ballet with whom I used to dance, there is a huge turnover of performers. At 25, you are considered a veteran. In this atmosphere of "use and throw" disposable dancers, it's rare enough to be able to cope well with personal pressure, let alone to be given time to create art. There's a general feeling that dancers are expendable, since there's always a ready supply of willing recruits. Given this, it will be far more common for art to be created with them as material, rather than as partners in the process.

The philosopher's philosopher

THURSDAY BOOK

WITHIN REASON: A LIFE OF SPINOZA
BY MARGARET GULLAN-WHUR, JONATHAN CAPE, £20



Spinoza: said to anticipate Freud and cognitive science

Hulton

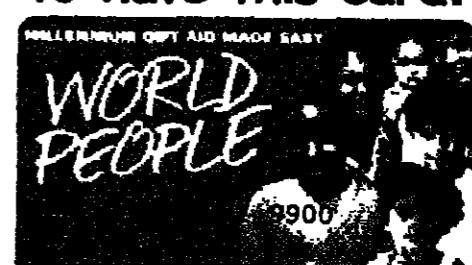
Portuguese parents had sought refuge from the Inquisition. Ultimately, though, the crammed details about trading, tobacco, tallow, sea-faring and the position of women lead to a no-wood-but-treeless. It is difficult, for instance, to extrapolate how tolerant to Jews this "great ark of refugees" actually was or (despite the minuscule on Spinoza's free-thinking friends) to get a sense of the prevailing attitude to atheism and "atheists".

The author does proffer a new slant on Spinoza: a mooted homosexual attachment to the young Dutch merchant Simon de Vries. Yet it is hardly surprising that this was "born unnoticed", since his grounds for it amount to little more than a metaphor de Vries uses in a letter.

She also loses sight of Spinoza's philosophical significance. Too often, she says virtually nothing on Spinoza's theory of the emotions or on the much-debated topic of whether or not he was a determinist. Despite interesting glints and gems, *Within Reason* disappoints overall. Perhaps we have had too idealised a picture of Spinoza, but a biography so unsympathetic to its subject inevitably proves alienating.

JANE O'GRADY

Why people in the world's poorest nations want you to have this card.



Now it's easier than ever for you to help people in the world's poorest nations. Thanks to the World People Card which works alongside the government's new Millennium Gift Aid initiative.

You pay £100 (by instalments if you like) into a World People Account. The Tax Man then adds more, so you have the original amount plus 23% extra to give away. You can use the World People Card for making donations to charities working in the world's poorest countries. You can also give via the internet.

If you want to make a real difference to the lives of people who need it most, please, contact World People today. Visit our website, use the coupon below or call 0800 980 2000 now.

Visit the World People website:
www.worldpeople.org

Complete and send this coupon to: FREEPOST World People

Mr/Mrs/Ms _____ First Name _____

Surname _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ Tel _____

WORLD PEOPLE
World People is organised by a registered charity, the Charles Aid Foundation, Charity No 268369, Patron the Duke of Edinburgh KG KT

WPAIS

Millennium Gift Aid Made Easy

THURSDAY POEM

'STILL TO BE NEAT, STILL TO BE DRESSED'
BY BEN JONSON

Still to be neat, still to be dressed,
As you were going to a feast;
Still to be powdered, still perfumed:
Lady, it is to be presumed,
Though art's hid causes are not found,
All is not sweet, all is not sound.

Give me a look, give me a face,
That makes simplicity a grace;
Robes loosely flowing, hair as free:
Such sweet neglect more taketh me
Than all th' adulteries of art;
They strike mine eyes, but not my heart.

Our poems until Friday come from *Sounds Good: 101 poems to be heard*, edited by Christopher Reid (Faber, £7.99)

Sir Kenneth Oxford

SIR KENNETH Oxford's 42-year police career in three of Britain's major forces was saturated in controversy. Although he was an investigating officer in two of the Sixties' most notorious cases, the Profumo Affair and the Hanratty murder inquiry, it was the battles over police accountability during the last decade of his career that he will be best remembered for.

Born in Lambeth in 1924, Oxford spent five years in the RAF during and after the Second World War before joining the Metropolitan Police in 1947. He was CID through and through, a committed career detective - and was involved at a relatively junior level in the Profumo and Hanratty investigations. He rose quickly through the ranks, attended the Senior Command Course at Bramshill, and in 1969 joined the Northumbria Police as Assistant Chief Constable (Crime).

The Met's detective branch had recently been tainted by a number of high-profile corruption cases, which meant that all Met officers were viewed with a certain suspicion; and Oxford, very much a Londoner, must have found a move to the provinces difficult. An abrasive and forthright man, he clashed with Her Majesty's Inspector for Northumbria, yet succeeded in becoming the Deputy Chair of the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) crime committee.

His forthright manner endeared him to the Merseyside Police Committee when he was interviewed for the post of Deputy Chief Constable in 1974, before being designated Chief Constable the following year. His early years in Merseyside gave few hints of the storm that was to follow.

Oxford had a clear commitment to improving facilities and restructuring the force, and its communication system. He received the congratulations of the Merseyside Community Relations Council for scrapping the "Task Force", which he felt had been responsible for some heavy-handed tactics, and expanded beat policing at the expense of motorised patrols as a means of improving police/public relations.

However he vehemently resented any demand from the Police Committee to justify his actions. For instance, when he made a case for an increase in manpower, and the f-

nancial consequences were pointed out to him, he took it as a personal attack. Later, any criticism by elected councillors or their appointees of him or his force was interpreted as a political assault upon the police service.

By the late 1970s the relationship between the police and the denizens of the working-class community of Huyton had plummeted, and a series of violent incidents culminated in the death of Jimmy Kelly in June 1979. Kelly, who had been arrested for being drunk and disorderly, died in police custody, and witnesses came forward claiming that they had seen police assaulting him. Allegations of police violence in K division, which had been ceded to Merseyside from the Lancashire Constabulary in the reorganisation of 1974, followed, and the local MP Sir Harold Wilson called for a public inquiry.

Kenneth Oxford responded to the wave of critical pressure that followed with a staunch refusal to

'If I am arrogant then the spice of arrogance is a necessary constituent of command'



A demonstration against Oxford (centre) after the Toxteth riots of 1981, when he authorised the first use of CS gas in Britain

discuss the case that enraged working-class Merseyside and its democratically elected representatives, including both Tory and Labour groups of Merseyside Council. The most vociferous of these critics was Margaret Simey, who led the Labour Group on the Police Committee.

Simey pushed hard for an inquiry, and Oxford responded in his annual report by referring to "vituperative, misinformed comment made by members of the County Council, but more unfortunately by members of the Police Committee". A Panorama television programme inspired a similar defence, the results of an internal investigation of K Division were not put into the public domain, and nine months

after Jimmy Kelly's death three pathologists gave a verdict of death by misadventure, and the Home Office rejected demands for a public inquiry.

The unresolved dispute concerning Kelly's death set the tone for what was to follow as Oxford continued to rail against anyone who questioned his attempts to improve the force's efficiency, largely through expanding its manpower. By the time urban rioting swept Britain in the summer of 1981, enlightened members of the Police Committee had been warning Oxford for several years about the situation in some of its poorest areas. However he continued to accuse the Police Authority of "criminal negligence", despite massive improvements in command and

control facilities, huge capital expenditure and most tellingly the highest police to population ratio outside of London.

Police relations with the largely black population of Liverpool were appalling, and the three days of rioting in Toxteth that July took a dreadful toll in damaged property and police casualties. One policeman was speared in the head with a six-foot railing, a police vehicle was rammed into an innocent disabled man (two officers were later acquitted of manslaughter), and another man was severely injured when a police Land Rover was driven into a crowd. Oxford's response was chilling: "They can see the vehicles coming and they know what will happen if they get in the way." Eventually CS

casualties that the rioters inflicted on the police.

Oxford resisted every step of the way what he saw as political interference in operational policing, and in the respite provided by the Scarman Report repeated his long-held belief that Liverpool's violent and multi-racial culture required a very particular policing style. Public demonstrations against Oxford followed.

During this period a peculiar deal was struck between Margaret Simey and the Home Secretary, William Whitelaw, which involved a toning-down of criticisms of Oxford's riot tactics in exchange for his removal as Chief Constable. ACPO and the Police Federation made sure that Whitelaw did not acqui-

esce to the desires of Simey and the Police Committee. After this incident Simey's influence upon Merseyside politics was significantly reduced.

Oxford became the focal point for a debate over police accountability that raged through the 1980s and remains unresolved to this day. As Chairman of ACPO 1982-83, he retained both the national spotlight and the antipathy of the Police Committee. Critics of the police and in particular opponents of his version of democratic accountability were branded as extremists.

The Miners strike of 1984/85 saw the Merseyside Police Committee unsuccessfully attempt to impose an injunction upon their Chief Constable to prevent Merseyside officers providing mutual aid to other forces as the tripartite system of controlling constabularies was all but demolished.

Kenneth Oxford had won. He opposed the Police and Criminal Evidence Act of 1984, and was named by Alison Haldorff as practising "tactics of exclusion" during her fight to gain promotion within the Merseyside Police.

He was a believer in traditional roles and traditional disciplines, an anathema to many contemporary management cops, but in some cases somewhat easier to comprehend. As he said of himself in 1981: "If I am arrogant then the spice of arrogance is a necessary constituent of command".

Oxford was appointed CBE in 1981, and knighted in 1988. He retired the following year and devoted the remainder of his life to his charity work and to his family. His managerial style was feudal. He was an old-style Chief Constable from a humble background, tough and shrewd, the most passionate advocate of the Chief Officers operational independence.

DICK HOBBS

Kenneth Gordon Oxford, police officer: born London 25 June 1924; officer, Metropolitan Police 1947-69; Assistant Chief Constable (Crime), Northumbria Constabulary 1969-74; Deputy Chief Constable, Merseyside Police 1974-75; Chief Constable, 1976-89; CBE 1981; Kt 1988; married 1954 Muriel Panton; died Liverpool 23 November 1998.

Violet Owen

VIOLET OWEN was one of the great stalwarts of lawn tennis and women's hockey.

She was born Violet Chamberlain in 1902, in the village of Ramsbury, Wiltshire, and learnt to play tennis on the court which divided her home from that of the young L.G. Owen, who later, in 1930, became her husband.

She played an all-round game and, although she lacked the power of modern players, this made her more effective at the net. A solid backhand enabled her to retrieve the unexpected. She was skilled at reading her opponent's game of her opponent and anticipating the return.

Above all, her coolness in the battle was her greatest strength. Unlike many of today's players she had a cool calculating temperament and refused to be rattled. She partnered many of the great players of her era and her close friend and frequent partner was Henry Billington, the Davis Cup player and grandfather of Britain's current No 1, Tim Henman.

After retiring in the 1930s as a player, Violet Owen took up coaching to pass her knowledge and skills on to others. She would take play-

ers of under 10 years old and help them through to county level. Even if they proved unable to reach the higher levels, she would still encourage them, pointing out that there is a lot of fun to be gained from playing tennis. This is the work for which she will probably be best remembered.

Violet Owen and her husband lived in Ramsbury all their lives; she served on the parish council and took an enthusiastic part in the life of the community. They had three children to carry on their sporting enthusiasms, John, Geoffrey and Ann. Ann and Geoffrey were both Wimbledon players, and Geoffrey also went on to become the Editor of the Financial Times and was knighted in 1988. That grass court in Ramsbury where it all started has now been relaid by him.

BILL EDWARDS

Violet Chamberlain, tennis and hockey player: born Ramsbury, Wiltshire 15 February 1902; married 1930 L.G. Owen (died 1947; two sons, one daughter); died Ramsbury, Wiltshire 22 October 1998.



Owen played at Wimbledon every year from 1926 to 1933

Stu Ungar



Away from the table I'm really not that bad a guy. But when the cards are dealt, I just want to destroy people'

STU UNGAR, three times World Poker Champion in Las Vegas, was regarded as the best no-limit player on the professional circuit. He was found dead last Sunday in a motel room on the Las Vegas Strip, with \$800 in his pocket.

Ungar dominated the poker scene in Las Vegas by the force and brilliance of his betting and an intuitive talent for reading his opponents. He won the World Championship, held at Binion's Horseshoe casino, at the age of 26, in 1980, and repeated the feat the following year. After an extended period of ups and downs in his gambling, he returned to win the world title a third time in 1987.

For many years, Ungar had been the victim of his success, in becoming addicted to cocaine. The drug wrecked his health in the process destroying his nostrils so badly that he took to wearing large round blue-tinted "granny" specs in order to hide his ravaged nose in photographs.

The game of the World Champ-

ionship is Texas Hold 'em, a faster form of seven-card stud, which requires judgement, courage and card skills in about equal measure. Ungar had all the talents and had been widely predicted to repeat his back-to-back triumph in the championship in May of this year.

But he was suffering so acutely from his physical collapse that he was unable to leave his hotel room, despite the continued efforts of his

close supporters to get him on his feet right up to the start of the event. During this time he also suffered delusions that people were out to get him, although, according to the Las Vegas police homicide unit, there was no indication of foul play in his death.

Nicknamed "the Kid" because of his youthful success, Ungar had an ability to dominate the table belied

by his elfin stature. He was relentlessly aggressive and competitive. "Away from the table I'm really not that bad a guy," he said. "But when the cards are dealt, I just want to destroy people."

The irony was he destroyed himself in the process. In Las Vegas, the world champion has a celebrity status, which attracts not just the admiration of poker players, but of other gamblers, women, fans and money.

Despite the huge sums won and lost in the top level games - the world championship prize is \$1m in cash - a player can rapidly go broke. When that happens, new backers are always eager to take a share of his action. The result is that for most of the time such a player is not really playing for himself, and money loses all meaning.

Ungar first came to attention at a young age in New York, where he had the reputation of being the strongest gin rummy player in the city. He grew up in Manhattan's Lower East Side where his father owned a bar. Ungar had a gift for

mathematics and, as he put it, a sixth sense about cards.

His father died when the boy was 13 and a year later his mother suffered a stroke. Ungar had to support himself and his family by hustling at cards. His skill at gambling was honed by playing with the wise guys who hung out at his father's tavern. The only trouble was, he was so successful at gin he wiped out his opponents, and with them his source of income. When he moved west, the same pattern was repeated in Las Vegas.

Seeking opportunity elsewhere, he turned to high stakes poker, and rapidly established himself. He won the World Championship at his first attempt, thus becoming the youngest title holder up to that time, and showed that his success was no fluke by winning several other big tournaments. No-limit Hold 'em was seen as his best game.

DAVID SPANNER

Stu Ungar, poker player: born New York 1953; one daughter; died Las Vegas 22 November 1998.

Professor J. C. Pugh

J.C. PUGH will be remembered with affection by many students and teachers in both the UK and Nigeria.

He came to London University in 1956 as Reader in Geography at King's College, a job which demanded much of him - departmental and college administrative duties as well as teaching. His initial appointment was to impart his knowledge of Africa, and of its fascinating landscape, gained over 14 years in Nigeria, to successive London geography students, but he also taught practical skills in map-making in the field. His attention to detail and a remarkable memory, together with a dry sense of humour and a fund of anecdotes will be recalled by many.

In 1964 he was made a Professor and in 1966 was appointed Head of Department. Despite his responsibilities he took considerable care to interview as many of the applicants for admission to the department as possible so that right from the start he got to know them and them him. His textbook *Surveying for Field Scientists* (1975) will have been familiar to King's College Geography students of that era, who will have special regard for the much-mapped Sussex heaths near the Rogate field centre. Pugh served on a number of college boards and committees, as Dean of the Faculty of Arts and was elected a Fellow of King's College in 1979. He retired in 1984.

He was born in Bristol in 1919, the only son of Captain George Pugh MC, and attended Bristol Grammar School. He won a scholarship to read Geography at St Catherine's College, Cambridge, which he completed with distinction in 1940.

Initially he joined the Royal Engineers, but in 1941 was transferred

to the Colonial Office and, although expecting to be sent to Hong Kong, found himself diverted to help in the mapping of Nigeria. He enjoyed a great deal of satisfaction from his work with the basic survey framework of Africa - its primary triangulation - which meant considerable spells of field observation in the bush.

Eight years of surveying were followed by seven years as a founder member of the University College of Ibadan in Nigeria in the newly established Geography Department, as Lecturer and then Senior Lecturer as well as Dean of Science.

He was tireless in working for the department and for the students and was one of the co-founders of the Nigerian Geographical Society in 1955. At the same time he completed his doctorate on the geomorphology of Nigeria, contributed to the theory of landscape evolution in Africa, and wrote textbooks on aspects of African geography. He collaborated with K.M. Buchanan in the book *Land and People in Nigeria* (1955) and a major work, *West Africa*, with W.B. Morgan was published in 1969.

After retirement he had time to take up some local interests - the Tunbridge Wells Geographical Association, Conservative Association and other societies; he was much involved with the fund-raising work of the local Red Cross, and attended SSAFA meetings. His funeral service was led by their Chaplain, Air Vice Marshal the Reverend S.M. Davidson. Retirement also meant a little more time to enjoy music - he had played the piano and sung in eartheners days and visits to Glyndebourne.

John Pugh founded two prizes in memory of his father in the Physics Department at Bristol and another in the Geography Department at King's College. Both were designed as much for encouragement as for reward - not so much for the high-fliers but for those who showed application and special interest and enthusiasm. It was therefore typical that he had requested that contributions in his memory should be made to the King's Geography Department Fund.

G.R. PETER LAWRENCE

John Charles Pugh: born Bristol 9 January 1919; Reader in Geography, King's College London 1956-64; Professor 1964-84 (Emeritus); married 1944 (one son); died Tunbridge Wells, Kent 31 October 1998.



Observation in the bush

Roland Alphonso

AT A time when even the early career of Bob Marley is exhaustively catalogued, and when American bands like Rancid, No Doubt and the Mighty Mighty Bosstones recycle ska rhythms for teenage consumption, the death of the tenor saxophonist Roland Alphonso offers a chance to reflect on the lasting influence of Jamaican music.

A founding member of the Skatalites, whose infectious 1967 hit "Guns Of Navarone" remains a favourite, Alphonso was one of the originators of ska, a whole new musical genre. Combining swing, big-band jazz, calypso, mento and American rhythm blues, the Skatalites backed everyone from Jimmy Cliff, Ken Boothe and Toots and the Maytals, to Lee Perry, Marcia Griffiths and Bob Marley and the Wailers.

"From before the music change, we were together. The music we played with the Wailers, around 'Summer Down' time, how the public responded to that music is what encouraged the Skatalites to form," Alphonso recalled.

Recorded at Studio One in 1964 by a trio comprising Peter Tosh and Bunny Livingston alongside Bob Marley, "Summer Down", the third Wailers single sold a remarkable 80,000 copies in Jamaica alone over the next few months, testament in part to the magic of Alphonso and his associates.

Miners strike of 1984/85 saw Merseyside Police Committee attempting to impose a ban upon their Chief Constable's authority to that tripartite system of constabularies was all but abolished.

At the time Oxford had won. He got the Police and Criminal Evidence Act of 1984, and was named Inspector Halford as practising the "exclusion" during her fight for promotion within the Merseyside police.

As he said of himself in 1987: "arrogance is a necessary component of command".

Halford was appointed CBE in 1988 and knighted in 1988. He retired following year, and devoted the remainder of his life to his charity and to his family. His manner was feudal. He was a true Chief Constable from a background, tough and the most passionate advocate of the Chief Officers' operational excellence.

DICK HORN

Gordon Oxford, police officer born London 25 June 1924; Metropolitan Police 1947-61; constable, Northumbria Constabulary 1969-74; Deputy Chief Constable, Merseyside Police 1974-88; Chief Constable, 1987-88; knighted 1988; married 1961; son Panton; died Liverpool 5 November 1998



Lasted 15 months. They toured all over Jamaica with featured vocalists like Derrick Wilson and Doreen Schaefer (with whom they cut "You're Wondering Now" and "Can't You See").

The Skatalites recorded hundreds of instrumental tracks, mostly penned by Drummond and often released under his or other members' names (the glorious fanfare of "Phoenix City" – an Alphonso song – was thus attributed to Randal and the Soul Brothers). The band echoed the issues of the day (e.g. "Christine Keeler", "Fidel Castro", and "Malcolm X") when they weren't adapting

American jazzmen like trumpeter Lester Bowie, the latter album earned a Grammy nomination in 1996.

After *Greetings From Skamonia*, also nominated in the Best Reggae Album category the following year, Tommy McCook retired because of ill-health (he died earlier this year).

By 1997 the Skatalites line-up was busier than ever with the *Ball Of Fire* and *Ska Island* projects on Island Jazz Jamaica and a couple of storming shows at the Jazz Caf in London. By then, the Skatalites' crucial contribution to Jamaican music had been recognised in the *Tougher Than Tough* four-CD box set (1995) and in the comprehensive reissue programmes of labels such as Blood And Fire and Westside, who currently have eight volumes of the *Top Sounds From Top Deck* series documenting the many sessions Alphonso and assorted Skatalites took part in.

Gaylene Martin, a longtime associate of the Skatalites, said of Alphonso: "He was one of the original innovators. He had a stroke and could only just about move around but he lived up until he played the saxophone." His final Skatalites show was at the Key Club, in Hollywood, when a blood vessel burst in his neck just after he had completed a solo. He died later in hospital.

PIERRE PERRONE

Roland Alphonso, saxophonist, composer and arranger; born 12 January 1931; married; died Los Angeles, California 20 November 1998.

Someone suggested 'Satellites' as a name for the nine-piece stellar ensemble; ska, their new musical style, was incorporated and they became the Skatalites

ing Beatles compositions ("I Should Have Known Better", "This Boy"), James Bond theme songs ("From Russia With Love") or blowing up a mighty version of "Guantanamera".

Unfortunately, the orchestra's career was stopped in its prime on New Year's Day 1965 when Don Drummond stabbed his girlfriend Margarita Mahood to death. The trombonist was committed to a mental asylum and died four years later.

This eventually prompted the Skatalites to reunite in 1983 for a performance at Reggae Sunsplash in Montego Bay. The following year they appeared in London and subsequently based themselves in America. Jackie Mittoo died from cancer in 1991 but McCook, Alphonso, Kults and Brevett soldiered on, recording *Skavocooze* (1993) and *Hip Hop Ska* (1995) for the Shashack label. Featuring past cohorts such as Toots Hibbert and Prince Buster alongside

Baroness Chalker of Wallasey will assume the Presidency of British Executive Service Overseas (BESO) at the Annual General Meeting to be held on 30 November at the CBI Centrepoint, London W1. Enquiries: 0171-630 0444.

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

BIRTHS

GUY: On 2 November 1998, a brother to Robbie and son to Neil and Aileen, Gregor James.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial Services, Wedding anniversaries, etc.) are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements, which must be submitted in writing, are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. Always include a daytime telephone number.

The Independent's main switchboard number is 0171-233 2000.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Prince of Wales, on behalf of The Queen, holds an investiture at Buckingham Palace. The Duke of Edinburgh, Master of Trinity House, attends a ceremony at North Foreland Lighthouse, Kent, to mark the completion of the Corporation's automation programme of manned Trinity House Lighthouses. The

G.R. PUTER LAWRENCE

Charles Pash (born Bradford 1919; Reader in Geography, London School of Economics 1942-61; Emeritus Professor 1962-81; Honorary Fellow, King's College, London 1982-98)

BIRTHDAYS

Maj-Gen Sir John Acland, farmer and brewery director, 70; Professor Margaret Boden, philosopher, 52; Mr Paul Barnett, disc jockey, 55; Sir Alan Dalton, former chairman, English China Clays, 75; Miss Frances Dee, actress, 91; Lord Forte, president, Forte 90; Sir Brian Goswell, deputy senior partner, Healey and Baker, 63; Mr Robert Goulet, singer and actor, 65; The Earl of Gowrie, chairman, Arts Council of England, 55; Mr John Selwyn Gummer MP, 59; The Most Rev Richard Holloway, Bishop of Edinburgh and Primate of the Scottish Episcopal Church, 65; Mrs Ann Keen MP, 50; Lord Moore of Lower Marsh, former MP, 61; Sir George Quigley, chairman, Ulster Bank, 69; Miss Joyce Quin MP, Minister of State, Home Office, 54; Mr Charles Schultz, car-

toonist, creator of "Peanuts", 76; Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal, president, Falkland Islands Trust, 75; Mrs Gisela Stuart MP, 43; Mrs Barbara Switzer, assistant general secretary, Manufacturing Science Finance, 58; Miss Tina Turner, singer, 60; Mr Keith Vaz MP, 42; Mr Norman West, MEP, 63.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Mark Aurel Stein, archaeologist, 1862; Cyril James Cusack, actor, 1910. Deaths: Harold Harmsworth, first Viscount Rothermere, newspaper proprietor, 1940; Thomas Francis (Tommy) Dorsey, bandleader, 1956; Cyril Vernon Connolly, critic, 1974. On this day: New College, Oxford was founded by William of Wykeham, 1379; to commemorate the harvest of 1623, the first national Thanksgiving Day was held in the United States, 1789.

Prince of Wales, President, the Royal College of Music, London SW1. The Princess Royal, President, British Horse Society, attends their Awards Luncheon at Saddlers' Hall, London EC2; as President, British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, visits Guide Clothing, London E1; and as Chancellor, London University, attends a Dinner at the Great Hall, King's College London, London WC2. The Duke of Gloucester, Hon-

orary Freeman and Liveryman, the Worshipful Company of Masons, presents the Craft Awards at Mercers' Hall, London EC2; and presents the International Building Press Journalism Awards at the Four Seasons Hotel, London W1. The Duchess of Gloucester opens the Young Men's Christian Association's Residential and Training Centre, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, and visits the Royal Grammar School, High

DINNERS

Foundation for Science and Technology

Lord Jenkin of Roding, Chairman, Foundation for Science and Technology, was in the Chair at a lecture and dinner discussion held yesterday evening at the Royal Society, London SW1. The Hon Anna Walker, Sir John Houghton, Dr Michael Grubb and Dr Leon Lees were the speakers. Their subject was "Energy Policy and Future Trends".

LECTURES

National Gallery: Colin Wiggins, "Poetry and Painting (iv): Constable, The Centaur Reborn", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Eileen Graham, "The East-West Porcelain Trade", 2pm. Tate Gallery: James Heard, "Seen and Not Heard? Portraits of Children in the 18th Century", 1pm. British Museum: Hilary Williams, "Claude, Rubens and the Strength of 17th-Century Drawing", 11.30am.

Wallace Collection, London W1: David Edge, "Arms and Armour", 1pm.

BRITISH EXECUTIVE SERVICE OVERSEAS

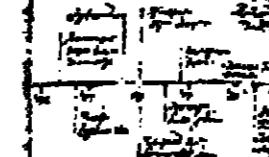
Baroness Chalker of Wallasey will assume the Presidency of British Executive Service Overseas (BESO) at the Annual General Meeting to be held on 30 November at the CBI Centrepoint, London W1. Enquiries: 0171-630 0444.

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; 1st Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment mounts the Queen's Guard at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Coldstream Guards.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

Patronage of the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals.

WORDS



HISTORICAL NOTES

FINIAN CUNNINGHAM

Capitalism and the art of warfare

FROM A Renaissance landscape of the crucified God to the desolation of a solitary soldier impaled on the barbed wire of a First World War battlefield may seem a preposterous leap of the imagination. Yet there is a solid historical connection: money and the art of

territorial possession of empire; while under the Pax Americana of the 20th century was born the market-transcending system of global corporate capitalism.

In these cycles are two periods – the demise of hegemony under the Italian city-states in the 15th century and under Britain at the end of the 19th century – which are of strikingly similar circumstances but with strikingly different outcomes. In both cases, capital was threatened by stagnation, and as a result retreated to safer investment havens.

These cycles are characterised by the hegemony of a particular state. Thus the earliest world economy was galvanised by the cluster of northern Italian metropoles. Subsequently, the hegemonic role in the world economy was taken up by the United Provinces of Holland, the United Kingdom and finally the United States of America.

While the principal economic force for these historical cycles may be attributed to the over-riding imperative of maximising financial profit, each hegemon has left its distinctive stamp: the northern Italian metropoles pioneered mechanisms of finance and inter-state diplomacy; the Dutch bequeathed the Westphalia System, the founding concept of nation states; the British expanded the system of free markets in line with

territorial possession of empires.

Four centuries later, however, and with the quantum jump of a second industrial revolution based on petroleum combustion engines, idle finance found expression in scientific militarism.

British capital, the hegemon of the day, was being choked by, on the one hand, huge profits flowing in from its free-trade empire, and, on the other, by an under-invested and glutted national economy. The safest outlet for British capital liquidity was in fueling an unprecedented armaments industry.

Pretty soon the national economy was being marshalled by ineluctable capitalist logic in the art of warfare. It was only a matter of time before diplomatic infraction by a rival state would ignite the conflagration of the First World War.

Today there are again

foreboding elements: economic stagnation, an insecure sense of the end of (American) empire and a proclivity for militaristic diplomacy. Perhaps this time we might learn from history to crucify the gods of money, power and statecraft rather than human beings.

The Long Twentieth Century: money, power and the origins of our times, by Giovanni Arrighi, is published by Verso (£15)

Gaming dispute decision was not arbitration

THURSDAY LAW REPORT

26 NOVEMBER 1998

O'Callaghan v Coral Racing Ltd

Court of Appeal

(Lord Justice Hirst,

Lord Justice May and

Sir Christopher Slade)

19 November 1998

for which no claim has been received within two months of the date of the event.

21. Disputes. In the event of a bet giving rise to a dispute which cannot be resolved by Coral personnel, it will be submitted to arbitration by the editor of the Sporting Life.

The editor's decision will be considered final. In the event of a dispute of horse racing bets, they can, at the customer's wish, be subsequently referred to the Tattersalls Committee for a final decision.

Coral informed the appellant that in view of the lack of photographic evidence they were relying on rule 1, and returned his £50 stake. Their decision to declare the bet void was submitted by the parties to the editor of the Sporting Life pursuant to rule 21. He appointed a panel to fulfil his functions under rule 21, and the panel decided in Coral's favour.

Coral informed the appellant that in the event of a dispute which cannot be resolved by Coral personnel, it will be submitted to arbitration by the editor of the Sporting Life.

However, the hallmark of the arbitration process was that it was a procedure to determine the legal rights and obligations of the parties judicially, with binding effect, which was enforceable in law; thus reflecting in private proceedings the rule of a civil court of law.

Rule 21, on the other hand, established a procedure which was devoid of any legal consequences whatsoever, and which lacked most of the key characteristics identified by the text books. It would be stretching the traditional concept of arbitration beyond breaking point to hold that rule 21 qualified as an arbitration clause.

KATE O'HANLON

Barrister

the operation known as a penectomy."

Winchester's use of retrore - from the Latin, to mean turned backwards - was last done in 1882, according to the OED. Not only has this biography sold more than all of his other books put together, but it looks certain to bring Winchester OED immortality.

DILEMMAS WITH VIRGINIA IRONSIDE

Should I tell my parents they ruined my childhood?

Nicolette's counsellor has suggested that she write her parents a letter outlining how she felt they let her down in childhood. She can't bear to do it because she knows it would upset her mother and that her father would never speak to her again. But her counsellor says her own mental health is more important than any pain she might cause. An unprecedented number of readers wrote to tell her what she should do

WHAT VIRGINIA SAYS

My own late father always advised me that writing angry letters was a good thing. "Write it, sleep on it, rewrite it, wait a week, make another draft to make it even more vicious, sleep on it again, then cut it down to half, and make a fair copy," he would say. "But never, never, under any circumstances, send it."

It seems extraordinary that a counsellor pushing Nicolette to do something that she instinctively knows is wrong. It's easy to write the letter, easy to post it, but how will she deal with the feedback? This is a letter, after all, one that can be read and reread, hurting again and again.

Far from clearing the air, it will fill it with fire and smoke and tears. It may well be that her parents will cut themselves off from her; they will feel so hurt and angry. Could Nicolette cope with that, along

with all her other problems?

How are Nicolette's parents going to feel when they open up this bombshell from a daughter whom they may well have loved deeply in their own way? Does she have any ideas of the stresses and strains they were under as they brought her up? Has she any concept of the thinking about child upbringing that existed when she was young?

Perhaps she was left to scream

and scream because her parents thought, according to books they read at the time, that it was the right thing to do. Perhaps they had had appalling difficulties in their own childhoods which made them unable to be the ideal parents that she fantasises about.

Obviously, if Nicolette's parents consistently abused her physically and psychologically, and she basically hates them and never wants to see them again, a letter would be fine. It would be a form of justice. But it certainly doesn't sound as though things were like that in Nicolette's home.

Now to confront her parents face to face, in a spirit of inquiry rather than resentment, could have completely different results.

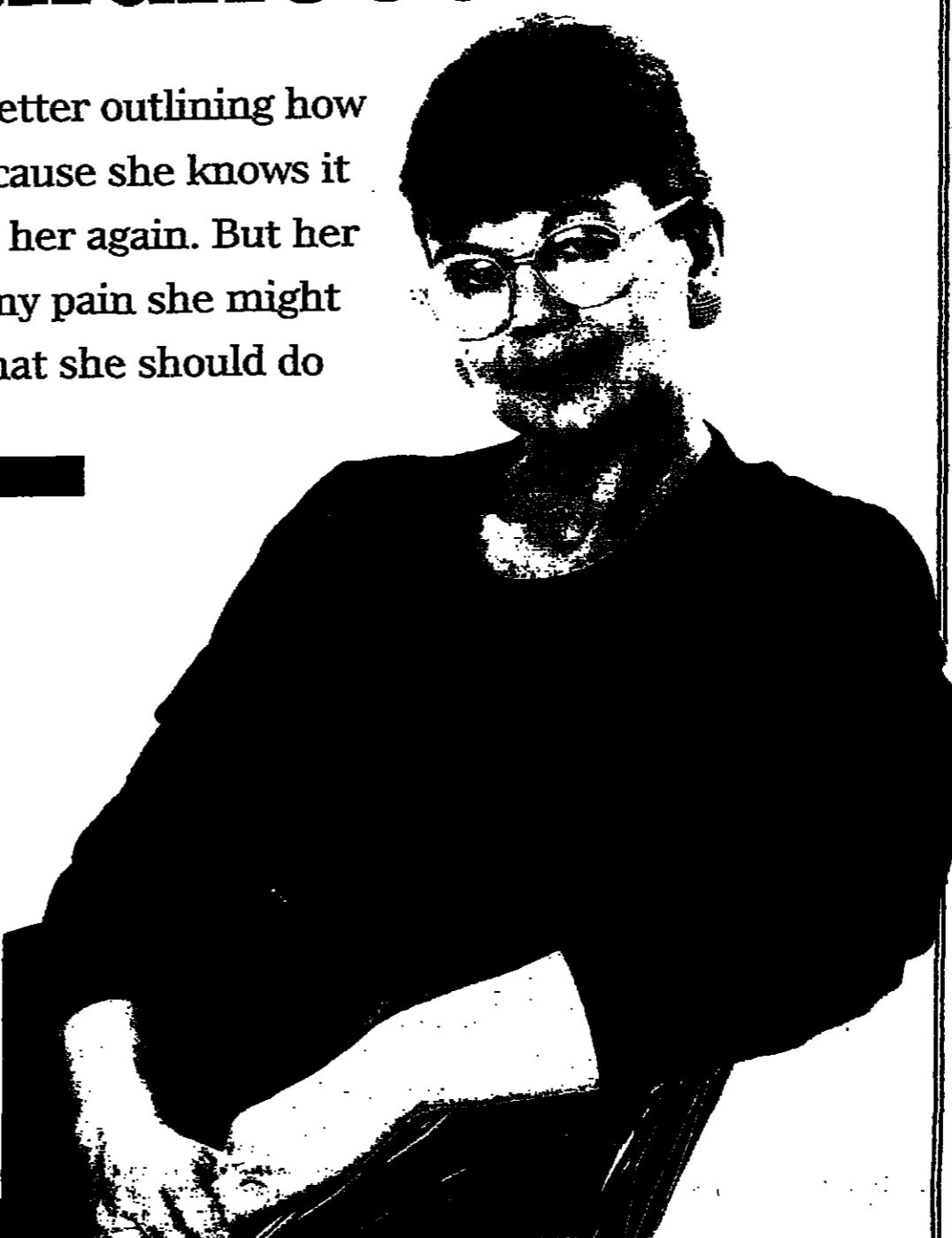
"I have never really understood why you sent me to boarding school when you knew I was so unhappy there." "I often thought, when I was small, that you never talked to me or listened to me because you thought I was stupid. Was I right?" These are remarks

that would imply no direct criticism, just an interest in what her parents' motives were. Her parents might be hurt, but certainly not devastated.

This could be healing, but only if Nicolette feels comfortable with it. But on the whole, counselling should involve helping a client to get in touch with her feelings of anger and resentment about her parents and to acknowledge and "own" them.

Only then can she forgive her parents - and perhaps get in touch with the kind things they did as well. And then she can get on with living her own life.

I wonder what the counsellor would suggest if Nicolette's parents were dead. Would she say that that was a pity because now she'd be stuck with her problems forever and she'd never be able to resolve them? Of course not. Nicolette would have to resolve them internally. Which is what she must do now.



WHAT READERS SAY

Seize the moment. In my case it was my father to whom I wrote as my mother was dead. It was not easy, but it was a wonderful release. It forced him to acknowledge me. It began the process of sorting out our relationship. It took ages to get him to even agree that I had a point, but in the end he did. My only regret is that he died before we could complete the journey together, but we were much closer than would otherwise have been.

Did it upset him? Of course it did. But that was his problem. I realised that my debt to myself was more important than my concern for his feelings. That lifetime subordination of feeling was at the heart of the problem - it had suppressed and belittled me.

Once I finally rebelled against it, I began to feel better. Counselling was no longer necessary. I was free at last.

Nicolette, this is the moment. Be strong. Seize it. Make it happen. Engage. Write that first letter. You will never regret it.

PETER MORGAN
Durham

Spare yourself the guilt. Don't post that letter. I did and it caused a lot of pain on both sides. My parents were baffled by my views - they felt that they had done the best for me in difficult circumstances.

Telling your parents how you feel won't benefit your mental health, it will just make you feel guilty and possibly worse than before.

Go ahead and write down your feelings - then burn the letters.

GINA GORDON
Leeds

No one has ideal parents. My advice to Nicolette is to immediately stop seeing her counsellor. With the money she saves she could have a great night out with her best mate at her local pub, and tell her friend what rotten parents she had. I guarantee that her friend will then tell her that her own mother and father were far from ideal. The two of them could then discuss how they themselves would be perfect parents with angelic children.

I failed my own children at times, but we love each other.

RUTH ANGUS
Bath

They're odd, not you. In order to move forward you have to let go of the past. By encouraging you to challenge your parents' past behaviour in the form of a letter, your counsellor is trying to help you see this. If you don't tell your parents what they have done, they will carry on behaving in the same way, and you will continue with this burden and not get on with your life. Your parents may not change but you can.

I am nearly 29 and both my parents suffer from psychiatric disorders and have done some terrible things. Thanks to a counsellor I have learned to have the courage to stand strong against them. Go on - post the letter.

Take one step at a time and you'll find the strength comes to you naturally. They are the ones who are odd - not you. When you realise this you'll wonder why you wasted so much time. I do.

JO HAMMOND
Leicester

I would be shattered. I left my sons, aged five and three, with their father when we divorced in 1985 and, although they came back to live with me as teenagers, I suffered from enormous guilt, and still do, at this desertion of them. They are now in their thirties, both very successful, and they assure me that what happened to them as children was part of life and any unhappiness

they may have experienced as adults is not my fault; they are responsible for their own lives now.

If they were to write me a letter such as Nicolette's counsellor advises, I would be totally shattered - we can only do the best we can as parents, and often that best is not good enough. For Nicolette's parents to be told, out of the blue, that they handled her badly would be terribly cruel. She should tear up the letter - surely writing it has been cathartic enough!

KATHARINE ODGERS
Hove, East Sussex

I needed to shock them. Nicolette's letter reminded me that what happened to them as children was part of life and any unhappiness

in graphic detail, events I had suffered in silence for the previous 21 years. I meant to shock and I meant to hurt and because no one in my family had any support to deal with what I revealed I caused a major rift between myself, my immediate family circle and the wider network of our relatives, which has remained to this day.

From the moment my letter was sent I effectively - and painfully - forced myself to move on. To my family what I had said was so unimaginable that their only option was to totally deny what I'd written and immediately close ranks.

It has taken me 12 years to reclaim the self-respect and love I knew I deserved

in my life, and I can state that I now feel no guilt or shame about the effect my letter had on my family. I knew deep down that I had no alternative.

ANONYMOUS

Accusations are useless. How can the counsellor know that her parents can look after themselves - such an accusation could have a devastating effect on them.

My sister tried exactly the same solution to a problem she felt she had with our parents. Her perception of our upbringing was entirely at odds with mine, but she was convinced they had caused her untold grief. The letter had a devastating effect on our parents and they never fully recovered from the accusations levelled at them, and also, it did her no good at all.

ANONYMOUS

Talk to your parents. Perhaps it would be more helpful to exorcise the pain by putting a chair in front of you and pretending that you are talking to your mum and your dad. You could explain how you feel without having to worry about their feelings. I, too, once wrote a letter to my parents but decided not to send it. I simply asked each one individually if they loved me. For me that was all that was needed and it enabled me to see them as they were then - young, insecure and human.

LYNDA FAULKNER
Chessington, Surrey

should we just put up with her?

Yours sincerely, Sonia

Anyone who has advice quoted will be sent letters and dilemmas to Virginia Ironside, 'The Independent', 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, fax 0171-293 2182, or e-mail: dilemmas@independent.co.uk - giving a postal address for sending the bouquet.

should we just put up with her?

Yours sincerely, Sonia

Anyone who has advice quoted will be sent letters and dilemmas to Virginia Ironside, 'The Independent', 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, fax 0171-293 2182, or e-mail: dilemmas@independent.co.uk - giving a postal address for sending the bouquet.

should we just put up with her?

Yours sincerely, Sonia

Anyone who has advice quoted will be sent letters and dilemmas to Virginia Ironside, 'The Independent', 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, fax 0171-293 2182, or e-mail: dilemmas@independent.co.uk - giving a postal address for sending the bouquet.

should we just put up with her?

Yours sincerely, Sonia

Anyone who has advice quoted will be sent letters and dilemmas to Virginia Ironside, 'The Independent', 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, fax 0171-293 2182, or e-mail: dilemmas@independent.co.uk - giving a postal address for sending the bouquet.

should we just put up with her?

Yours sincerely, Sonia

Anyone who has advice quoted will be sent letters and dilemmas to Virginia Ironside, 'The Independent', 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, fax 0171-293 2182, or e-mail: dilemmas@independent.co.uk - giving a postal address for sending the bouquet.

should we just put up with her?

Yours sincerely, Sonia

Anyone who has advice quoted will be sent letters and dilemmas to Virginia Ironside, 'The Independent', 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, fax 0171-293 2182, or e-mail: dilemmas@independent.co.uk - giving a postal address for sending the bouquet.

should we just put up with her?

Yours sincerely, Sonia

Anyone who has advice quoted will be sent letters and dilemmas to Virginia Ironside, 'The Independent', 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, fax 0171-293 2182, or e-mail: dilemmas@independent.co.uk - giving a postal address for sending the bouquet.

should we just put up with her?

Yours sincerely, Sonia

Anyone who has advice quoted will be sent letters and dilemmas to Virginia Ironside, 'The Independent', 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, fax 0171-293 2182, or e-mail: dilemmas@independent.co.uk - giving a postal address for sending the bouquet.

should we just put up with her?

Yours sincerely, Sonia

Anyone who has advice quoted will be sent letters and dilemmas to Virginia Ironside, 'The Independent', 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, fax 0171-293 2182, or e-mail: dilemmas@independent.co.uk - giving a postal address for sending the bouquet.

should we just put up with her?

Yours sincerely, Sonia

Anyone who has advice quoted will be sent letters and dilemmas to Virginia Ironside, 'The Independent', 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, fax 0171-293 2182, or e-mail: dilemmas@independent.co.uk - giving a postal address for sending the bouquet.

should we just put up with her?

Yours sincerely, Sonia

Anyone who has advice quoted will be sent letters and dilemmas to Virginia Ironside, 'The Independent', 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, fax 0171-293 2182, or e-mail: dilemmas@independent.co.uk - giving a postal address for sending the bouquet.

should we just put up with her?

Yours sincerely, Sonia

Anyone who has advice quoted will be sent letters and dilemmas to Virginia Ironside, 'The Independent', 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, fax 0171-293 2182, or e-mail: dilemmas@independent.co.uk - giving a postal address for sending the bouquet.

should we just put up with her?

Yours sincerely, Sonia

Anyone who has advice quoted will be sent letters and dilemmas to Virginia Ironside, 'The Independent', 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, fax 0171-293 2182, or e-mail: dilemmas@independent.co.uk - giving a postal address for sending the bouquet.

should we just put up with her?

Yours sincerely, Sonia

Anyone who has advice quoted will be sent letters and dilemmas to Virginia Ironside, 'The Independent', 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, fax 0171-293 2182, or e-mail: dilemmas@independent.co.uk - giving a postal address for sending the bouquet.

should we just put up with her?

Yours sincerely, Sonia

Anyone who has advice quoted will be sent letters and dilemmas to Virginia Ironside, 'The Independent', 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, fax 0171-293 2182, or e-mail: dilemmas@independent.co.uk - giving a postal address for sending the bouquet.

should we just put up with her?

Yours sincerely, Sonia

Anyone who has advice quoted will be sent letters and dilemmas to Virginia Ironside, 'The Independent', 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, fax 0171-293 2182, or e-mail: dilemmas@independent.co.uk - giving a postal address for sending the bouquet.

should we just put up with her?

Yours sincerely, Sonia

Anyone who has advice quoted will be sent letters and dilemmas to Virginia Ironside, 'The Independent', 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, fax 0171-293 2182, or e-mail: dilemmas@independent.co.uk - giving a postal address for sending the bouquet.

should we just put up with her?

Yours sincerely, Sonia

Anyone who has advice quoted will be sent letters and dilemmas to Virginia Ironside, 'The Independent', 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, fax 0171-293 2182, or e-mail: dilemmas@independent.co.uk - giving a postal address for sending the bouquet.

should we just put up with her?

Yours sincerely, Sonia

Anyone who has advice quoted will be sent letters and dilemmas to Virginia Ironside, 'The Independent', 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, fax 0171-293 2182, or e-mail: dilemmas@independent.co.uk - giving a postal address for sending the bouquet.

should we just put up with her?

Yours sincerely, Sonia

Anyone who has advice quoted will be sent letters and dilemmas to Virginia Ironside, 'The Independent', 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, fax 0171-293 2182, or e-mail: dilemmas@independent.co.uk - giving a postal address for sending the bouquet.

should we just put up with her?

Yours sincerely, Sonia

Anyone who has advice quoted will be sent letters and dilemmas to Virginia Ironside, 'The Independent', 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, fax 0171-293 2182, or e-mail: dilemmas@independent.co.uk - giving a postal address for sending the bouquet.

should we just put up with her?

Yours sincerely, Sonia

Anyone who has advice quoted will be sent letters and dilemmas to Virginia Ironside, 'The Independent', 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, fax 0171-293 2182, or e-mail: dilemmas@independent.co.uk - giving a postal address for sending the bouquet.

should we just put up with her?

Yours sincerely, Sonia

Anyone who has advice quoted will be sent letters and dilemmas to Virginia Ironside, 'The Independent',

Katie just wanted to help others

Katie Sullivan, a 23-year-old carer for the mentally ill, was stabbed to death by a patient six years ago. Now it has happened again. Why? By Grant Rollings

The death of Jenny Morrison, the 50-year-old social worker who was killed at a care-in-the-community hostel in Balham, south London this week, brought back bitter memories for Sandra Sullivan.

Although the precise circumstances of Jenny Morrison's death have yet to emerge, the killing at a hostel reminded her of the death of her own daughter six years ago.

Like Jenny, Katie Sullivan was devoted to her job, caring for the mentally ill. Ideally, perhaps, she told her mother a day before her death: "One day I will teach those around me, doctors included, to respect those who are mentally ill."

Katie was 23 when she began working as a carer in Kingston for a MIND hostel for £2 an hour. She had read psychology at Swansea University and planned to study for a doctorate at Oxford University. On the day she died, Katie was washing up in the kitchen of the hostel when a female patient, Erieymne Inweh, walked up behind her. She picked up a carving knife and thrust it into Katie 14 times, piercing her heart, liver and lungs. Katie's screams were heard by a fellow patient who alerted the hostel manager. The manager discovered Inweh kneeling over Katie still stabbing her. Inweh, 22, had used violence before but Katie was unaware of the extent of the patient's violent nature.

In fact, Katie had struck up a friendship with Inweh, even introducing the patient to her family. However, Inweh had become upset when Katie told her that she applied for a £200-a-week job as a care assistant. The day before her attack, she'd stopped taking her medication and only eight days earlier, that medication had been halved.

When Katie died, Sandra Sullivan, now 53, and her husband Mick expected sympathy and help from her employers and from the legal authorities. They felt, though, that there was no help. Lawyers representing the council which was responsible for the hostel where Katie was killed, even said the Sullivans would "save money" in the future by not having to pay for Katie's Christmas and birthday presents.

Sandra says: "Katie was frequently referred to as a 'calculated risk' and an 'unfortunate incident'. Treading in dog dirt is an unfortunate incident."

Sandra, who has four children, says: "Our family was obviously devastated, but we only had each other to turn to. There was no help from outside. Most of all we wanted answers, but everything was very secretive. At first we thought it was a million-to-one chance that Katie had been killed. But as we looked harder, we found it could have been avoided."

Over the past six years, Mick and Sandra have battled for justice for their daughter. It has been extremely difficult for them to see a string of similar cases crop up in the news among people working in the mental health sector. A year after Katie died, Jonathan Newby, a 23-year-old postgraduate student, was working in a homeless hostel in Oxford. He was stabbed by Andrew Rouse, a schizophrenic who

attack a fellow patient who she believed was the Anti-Christ.

Despite spending £50,000 in legal costs trying to force enquiries and to get answers the couple were constantly thwarted by red-tape.

Sandra is a calm, well-educated woman, but there is no hiding the abiding feeling of anger and revulsion. She only refers to Inweh as "it".

Sandra says: "When it took my daughter's life it gave up the right to be recognised as a human being because that is not human behaviour. To me that person will always be an 'it'."

Eventually Inweh was cleared of Katie's murder and sent to Broadmoor indefinitely. Sandra is still shocked by the detail that emerged after the court case.

Potentially violent patients were not normally admitted to the MIND hostel in Kingston because it was supposed to ease them back into the community," she says.

The social worker who admitted Inweh to the hostel did not know all the details of the previous hospital attack and told the MIND hostel that she had not been involved in "life-threatening behaviour".

Now another hostel worker has been fatally stabbed. "But I know our campaigning has done some good. We have made people sit up and listen. Now we need real change. Not only has Care in the Community cost the life of my daughter Katie. I believe it cost the life of my husband as well," Sandra says.

A couple of months ago Mick Sullivan, 56, died from a heart attack, sitting next to Sandra in the car. He had just learned that the Sullivans would not be able to have legal representation at a mental health tribunal which was due to discuss the possible release of Katie's killer.

Now Sandra is carrying on the work alone; among other things, she would like research to be carried out about the long-term effects of sudden or violent deaths on families. She would also like to make the voice of victims of crime more audible and has helped to launch an umbrella group for victims' organisations called Victims' Voice. Organisations backing the charity include The Suzy Lumphugh Trust and The Zito Trust.

"I only hope that this latest killing can finally make something happen," Sandra says.

'One day I will teach those around me, including doctors, to respect those who are mentally ill'

was later sent to Broadmoor. In the same year, Georgina Robinson, an occupational therapist at Torbay Hospital, was killed by Andrew Robinson, who had planned to kill John Major.

Michael Howlett, director of the Zito Trust, says: "People who have commitment to doing good can be taken advantage of. All too often there is no training offered. They're left to supervise shifts, often on their own and deal with people who really are too dangerous to be in the community."

Sandra is still determined to improve standards for these employees and volunteers. For example, she wants other mental health workers, like their daughter, to be told about the background, violent or otherwise, of patients they're working with.

While Inweh was detained in hospital under the Mental Health Act, it was discovered that she had already used a sharp weapon to

kill.

Sandra says: "Katie was

Dining in a good cause

Restaurants are raising money for charity. All we have to do is eat, drink and be generous. By Steve Crawshaw

MARTIN BELL tucks into goat's cheese beignets with tapenade and vegetable nicoise (he had hesitated briefly over the smoked salmon with cockle butter, but his wife Fiona eventually plumped for that one). Then comes the main dish, including a choice between Dover sole with cucumber, brown shrimp and dill, and roast scallops with bouillabaisse and green olives. Another glass of chardonnay? That would be nice. Dessert wine to round off the evening? Nicer still. At Richard Corrigan's quietly fashionable Lindsay House restaurant in Soho, central London (where the Prime Minister was a recent guest), we are enjoying a gastronomic treat with the former BBC correspondent and current Independent MP for Tatton. And it is all in a good cause.

For this is where the borderlines between pleasure and charity are irrevocably blurred. This week's dinner was the first of a series of money-making eat-ins organised by

the charity War Child. "Feast for Peace" events, officially launched tomorrow, will take place at more than 100 restaurants across the country in the next few days.

The idea is to bleed customers of their money while they have a good meal. Participating restaurants, in turn, agree to give 25 per cent of their takings to charity. The more you eat, the more they'll give. What better reason to order another bottle of wine? It's all for charity.

John Carmichael of War Child explains the simple idea: "To do good while having a good time." Those who have signed up for the honorary committee of the Feast for Peace include chefs Jean-Christophe Novelli, Aldo Zilli and the Nash Brothers.

War Child came into existence in Bosnia in 1993, where film-makers Bill Leeson and David Wilson wanted to do something – anything – to help the children they had seen. The two men-and-a-

phone project quickly snowballed, however, and the charity now has offices in six countries. It has successfully persuaded big names from showbiz and the arts to get involved – from David Bowie to Tom Stoppard to the Spice Girls. Its best known project is the new Pavarotti music centre in the city of Mostar launched with an opening concert by Luciano himself. But the charity has now broadened well beyond its original base, with projects in Guatemala, Chechnya, and across Africa.

Carmichael sums up the organisation's aims: "To give hope to the lives of children who have been through war." But is there not something odd about this sense of gorging oneself to raise money for those who have nothing? Bell admits that he might draw the line at "feasting for famine" – that would be too much". In this case, however, he argues that the end justifies the pleasurable means. His own experience as a war correspondent informs the words, "We can help by enjoying ourselves, why not?"

For a full list of participating restaurants, ring the Feast for Peace hotline on 0171-916 6000.

'The evil pair' – but are they the bombers that never were?

Continued from page 1
number if you want it." The reporter subsequently identified by *The Independent* as a journalist for Israeli radio, and who denied any attempt to "nibble" the jury – was interviewed by the police but allowed to remain in court during the trial.

Gareth Peirce tried to obtain the film from the Israeli embassy security videotape camera that must have shown the bomber – only to be told that the security camera was not working on the day of the bombing. Both the accused could prove that they were not at the scene of the bombing – Alami had been making a telephone call from the Imperial College library at the time, had forgotten where she was when the bomb exploded (as she might well have done if innocent), and was only able to prove her alibi when her solicitor found that the telephone in the library recorded the time and number of calls.

But once Alami and Botni put together their portrait of Moghrabi separately from each other – in two different prisons where they were being held – and since the two faces are similar, he almost certainly did exist. And from their memory of his words, it is also possible to reconstruct his story. Agents, after all, are always encouraged to build their identities around events that really happened, because it is easier to stick to a biography if some of it is actually true.

business reference, no bank account, no credit card reference..."

Mr Justice Garland remarked: "Well now, is he real? Is his name a label for someone else, or is he a fictitious character carefully tailored to fit those parts of the Crown's case to which there is no answer?" As far as the couple were concerned, the judge might have added: "he could have been a Mossad agent, a police informer, goodness knows what, for all they knew."

The name Moghrabi can be Arabic or Jewish, Lebanese or Palestinian – most Moghrabis in the Middle East would trace their ancestry to the 16th-century Spanish expulsion of Jews and Arabs to the Maghreb of North Africa. Moghrabi may be a name as false as the intentions of the man in whom Alami and Botni placed their trust in 1992.

But since Alami and Botni put together their portrait of Moghrabi separately from each other – in two different prisons where they were being held – and since the two faces are similar, he almost certainly did exist. And from their memory of his words, it is also possible to reconstruct his story. Agents, after all, are always encouraged to build their identities around events that really happened, because it is easier to stick to a biography if some of it is actually true.

Born in the West Bank around 1950, and to parents who had abandoned their home on the coast during the 1948 flight of Palestinians from what became Israel, Moghrabi grew up in Nablus or Ramallah.

Arrested by the Israelis for "resistance activities" in 1978 or 1979, he moved to Jordan where he taught at the Barqa refugee camp.

In early June 1992, Moghrabi fought Israeli invasion forces on the Lebanon coast road south of Sidon. Falling out with both Yasser Arafat's PLO and Arafat's opponents in Damascus, he left Lebanon via Syria and Cyprus for Britain where – through refugee status or marriage to an Englishwoman – he went into business with Gulf contacts. In the mid-Eighties, he moved to Kuwait but then fled when Iraq invaded in 1990, returning to Britain to live in Birmingham.

Alami met Moghrabi for the first time in the spring of 1992, after they both attended a London lecture on the Middle East. Moghrabi began discussing "resistance problems" with Alami and Botni in 1993, recalling his experience in Lebanon. "Moghrabi was coming across as someone informative, critical, interesting and experienced," Alami was to recall. By March 1994, they were talking about the techniques of bomb-making. Moghrabi seemed "knowledgeable". In June 1994,

Moghrabi used Botni's help in buying a second-hand Audi car – which was to seal Botni's fate. A few days later, Alami and Moghrabi met for the last time.

"He had phoned me ... saying he was leaving Britain and he might leave a few things for me," Alami recalled. "He said that he had been doing experiments, that he had products [sic] he no longer needed ... and thought of giving them to me." Moghrabi gave Alami explosives, boot-to-boot from his car to hers in central London. "I wasn't sure how to react but somehow couldn't say no," she says. Just after midday on 26 July 1994, the Audi car blew up outside the Israeli embassy in London. That night, another bomb exploded outside Balfour house in Finchley. Alami and Botni were convicted of conspiracy – though not the actual bombing – in December.

The jury obviously concluded that Reda Moghrabi was a fictitious character. But if so, Alami and Botni have produced a mighty convincing portrait of the "Man Who Never Was". And since even Scotland Yard agree that the convicted pair did not carry out the bombing – that there was someone else who actually planted the bomb – you might expect the police to show a little more interest in the man with the staring eyes.



The 'halfway house', in Balham, south London, where Jenny Morrison was stabbed to death



Jenny Morrison, the 50-year-old social worker killed this week



Katie Sullivan, the 23-year-old stabbed to death in 1992

every way you have let your rents down from toddler nitrins, through adolescent suleness and rage, to entitlement, distance, and then you feel it! After you pointed out, you c'd and like them, even after yourself, don't you?"

Ditch the counsellor and talking to your parents, you might actually resolve your problems your therapist is changing you! Even a quick discussion with your parents is what it would be more important to exercise the pain of putting a chair in front of you and pretending that you're talking to your mum and dad. You could explain what you feel without having worry about their feelings. I, too, once wrote a letter to my parents but didn't send it. I only asked each one individually if they loved me and that was all that was needed and it enabled me to see them as they were in a young, insecure and human.

NINA FAULKNER
Exington, Surrey



Sex, size and schizophrenia

Pushkin was a poet of paradoxes. Misogynist or feminist? Heretic or Christian? One thing is certain: he wasn't a tall man. By Daniel Britten

A few years ago Isaiah Berlin's book choice for *Desert Island Discs* was *The Complete Works of Pushkin*. To many it came as a surprise, since outside Russia Pushkin is usually regarded as a rather lightweight figure in world literature. In England he is known as "the Russian Byron", a hot-tempered, libidinous roué who died in a duel at the age of 37.

Yet things could change with the bicentenary of his birth, in 1999. Pushkin-mania, it seems, may be about to sweep through Britain. A new film of his epic poem, *Eugene Onegin*, starring Ralph Fiennes, is due for release next year. Before that, several books will appear, following a recently published biography by Elaine Feinstein, which will emphasize Pushkin's importance as a writer of international stature. There is even a Pushkin Bicentennial Trust, chaired by his great-great-granddaughter – one of several Pushkin descendants living in this country.

In Russia, however, Pushkin's importance as a national figure has never been in question. The author of poetry, fiction, plays and non-fiction, he is a staple feature of every Russian syllabus. Every Russian schoolchild learns some of his poems by heart. His status there is equivalent to that of Goethe in Germany or Shakespeare in Britain.

If the test of a canonical writer is his ability to appeal to different generations for different reasons, then Pushkin must certainly qualify as a genius. Anthony Briggs, the editor of a forthcoming collection of essays entitled *Why Pushkin?* (Hazard Publishing), explains: "Pushkin is so protean that every person or group can appropriate him for their own interests. For instance, in the Pushkin celebrations of 1861, Dostoevsky portrayed him as a great Russian nationalist; whereas in the Soviet era he was portrayed as a great proto-revolutionary because of his tenuous connections with the December revolt of 1825." Now, ironically, it is the Russian Orthodox Church that is championing

him as a devoted Christian, despite his having written a number of blasphemous, even heretical poems.

In modern-day Britain, however, Pushkin appeals directly to our sensibilities because of his complex perspective on race and gender. Much can be made, for instance, of the fact that his great-grandfather was an African slave who was adopted by Peter the Great. Indeed, Pushkin inherited some of his family's pronounced African features, as seen by his dark skin and frizzy hair.

But while his mother was known as the "beautiful Creole", Pushkin was less physically attractive, and in his early French poem, *Mon Portrait*, he even describes himself as having "a proper monkey's face".

In her new biography, Feinstein argues that much of Pushkin's greatness stems from the sense of otherness that his looks, among other things, engendered. Feinstein argues that "Pushkin, well aware of his make-up, ascribed it often and proudly to his black ancestry". This was evident not only in the poems about himself, but in those where he identified with other ethnic groups, such as the gypsies and the Jews.

Yet his attitude towards race, as with everything else, was paradoxical. Having initially boasted of his ancestry, he became disillusioned with it when it became the subject of mockery by members of the Tsar's court. His confusion can be seen in a poem about the vicissitudes of sexual attraction, called *To Yuryev*: "While I, always an idle rake/Ugly descendant of a Black/Rearred in a wilderness, can take no pleasure in the pains of love. Whenever I have won a beauty/It is through shameless, hot desire." Indeed, if Pushkin's attitudes towards race were complicated, his feelings about sexuality were no less puzzling.

Pushkin is usually thought of as a Don Juan figure, seducing his way through the Russian aristocracy in imitation of his hero, Byron, whose portrait hung on his wall. He even, notoriously, compiled a "Don Juan list" of sexual conquests, and composed bawdy verses reflecting his fascination with erotica.

Again, there is a paradox, for while his attitude towards women was often derogatory, he appears to have idolised them in equal measure. Many of his relationships followed a familiar pattern, whereby his respect for them diminished as intimacy increased. He once said: "The less one loves a woman, the surer one is of possessing her." In his treatment of them it was, as Elaine Feinstein comments, as if he had taken to heart Alexander Pope's dictum that "most women have no character at all".

Perversely, however, he appears to have made a distinction between his views of them in real life and in his work. Recently on Radio 3's *Private Passions*, Claire Tomalin described *Eugene Onegin* as a work with clear feminist sympathies. In it, the heroine, Tatyana, falls in love with the hero, Onegin, and sends him a letter propositioning him.

Hummocked by this act of female assertiveness, he rejects her, but then subsequently falls in love with her; by which time it is too late and she has married someone else. As Tomalin says, "There is no question that Tatyana emerges as the dominant force in the story".

In a sense, Pushkin's schizophrenic attitude towards women can be related to the culture in which he lived. The atmosphere of the Tsarist court in the early 19th century was a very laudish one, where women were primarily valued for their beauty, and men fought duels over them, sometimes for the most trivial of reasons. Pushkin fought at least six that we know of, and they usually involved someone else's wife. Ironically, in the one which killed him he was the innocent party.

A psychoanalyst would, of course, explain his eagerness to fight in terms of insecurity about his masculinity. He was, after all, only five feet tall, and remorselessly neglected by his mother as a child. But there were other factors, too, such as the acute sense of impotence that he suffered under the Draconian censorship of Tsar Nicholas I. There was also what Anthony Briggs describes as the "cultural aridity" of the court, and Pushkin's growing financial hu-

miliation caused by his father's refusal to give him any money. Yet, despite or perhaps because of a wealth of insecurities, he continued to write poetry of wisdom and maturity.

Naturally, in interpreting it thus, there is a danger of ascribing too many of our own values to an age which was fundamentally different.

But with so many modern parallels it is surprising that Pushkin's work has so far remained largely unfamiliar to the Western reader. With the publication of a new collection of his verse by the Folio Society next year, a major obstacle may be overcome. With new translations by, among others, Ted Hughes, Seamus

Heaney, Eavan Boland and Carol Ann Duffy (the one by Ted Hughes being his very last work), perhaps now at last we may be offered a glimpse of the true subtlety and versatility of Pushkin's work. For when Isaiah Berlin chose him for his *Desert Island* he said that Pushkin's genius stemmed from being "not a

man who tries to interpret everything in the light of some single all-embracing system... he expresses himself in many directions, as the spirit takes him". Pushkin, then, could indeed be the perfect emblem for our own, chaotic age.

Elaine Feinstein's *'Pushkin'*, Wiedenfeld & Nicolson, £20

Bridgeman Art Library

man who tries to interpret everything in the light of some single all-embracing system... he expresses himself in many directions, as the spirit takes him". Pushkin, then, could indeed be the perfect emblem for our own, chaotic age.

Elaine Feinstein's *'Pushkin'*, Wiedenfeld & Nicolson, £20

hidden behind a giant screen and a man erupting to scramble desperately up a wall. It seems an apocalyptic vision of the collapse of form.

The Sadler's Wells programme gives an opening taster of its kaleidoscopic means and imagination. Rumour says he might return with one of his composite full-evening works. It might be hell for me, but it's heaven for me.

To 28 Nov (0171-963 8000)

NADINE MEISNER

It's magnificent – but is it really a ballet?

A LOT of people have tickets for the British debut of William Forsythe's *Ballett Frankfurt* and I hope they find what they want. The Forsythe at the Sadler's Wells is not the post-classical choreographer made familiar by the Royal Ballet. This Forsythe is a post-post-classical adventurer whose journey from his ballet roots has gone so far it is often unrecognisable as ballet.

You can still catch glimpses of the spectacularly extreme classicism

that first made Forsythe's name – although there are no pointe shoes here. But his own extraordinary dancers are more individual and versatile than the average ballet dancer.

They help him create choreography where phrases are broken down into small bumps and twists, transitions magnified and energy channelled into a fluid continuum. They perform pieces where conventional stage etiquette is exploded, so that dancers saunter on and

DANCE

BALLET FRANKFURT
SADLER'S WELLS, LONDON

off, sit in secret contemplation or stand about dispiritedly. They think nothing of manoeuvring their own lighting equipment or performing in pools of almost total blackness.

The last of the three pieces, *Quintet*, seems the most lyrical and the most direct. On the surface it is a se-

ries of choreographic variations for five dancers, starting with a solo for Stephen Galloway. But actually the cast all exist in a state of imminent collapse. Their contours wobble and concertina; their legs buckle; their duets become struggles to regain verticality. Gavin Bryars' accompanying *Jesus' Blood Never Failed Me Yet* sets a quietly emotional mood, as does the knowledge that Forsythe made the piece as a message of hope again death. At the end a lone woman

moves against a square of sky, and when she sinks backwards, a man steps out to push her back up.

Hypothetical Streak 2, made by communicating instructions via a stream of faxes, evokes an isolated human colony in a vast space, heads raised expectantly as if listening out for Jesus' blood never failed me yet sets a quietly emotional mood, as does the knowledge that Forsythe made the piece as a message of hope again death. At the end a lone woman

for example, seethes and tugs like a single organism, while a woman stands frozen in mid-gesture.

*There is no narrative, although with *Enemy in the Figure* we might be watching the strews of a nightmare, caught up in a swirl of darkness and light and the machine rhythms of Thom Willem's score. Figures run chaotically. A rope seems alive. And disturbing games of concealment and visibility play themselves out, with some dancers*

hidden behind a giant screen and a man erupting to scramble desperately up a wall. It seems an apocalyptic vision of the collapse of form.

The Sadler's Wells programme gives an opening taster of its kaleidoscopic means and imagination. Rumour says he might return with one of his composite full-evening works. It might be hell for me, but it's heaven for me.

To 28 Nov (0171-963 8000)

NADINE MEISNER

Victoria would not be amused

VISUAL ARTS

SECRET VICTORIANS

FIRSTSITE, COLCHESTER



'World's Exposition' (1997) by Kara Walker

present animal locomotion. But, instead of a horse, middle-aged man busks with his accordian at the foot of an escalator deep in the Undergound. Music hall music envelops the work, the musician moving ever so slightly, trapped in a never-ending merry-go-round.

The Victorians' invention and love of photography has been taken up by a number of the artists. Bill Jacobson's work plays on the Victorians' sentimental use of photography to commemorate the dead. In his soft focus *Interior* series he conjures up a sense of lost lives, which he explains has drawn on "feelings around the tentativeness and vulnerability of life in the age of AIDS" where photographs are often the only reminder that friends and family have after someone has died.

Hiroshi Sugimoto has also turned his camera on death with his photographs of Victorian criminals taken in Madame Tussaud's. The sharp focus of the St Albans Poisoner and the Brides in the Bath Murderer gives the figures a strangely life-like quality while retaining the waxiness of death. Photography was popular

more claustrophobic for its gigantic size; Victorian costume is recreated using African prints, and a silhouette of two Victorian men playing chess with the utmost decorum is undermined by the inclusion of their hugely exaggerated genitals.

Queen Victoria, photographed at Madame Tussaud's by Sugimoto, stares out glumly at this reinterpretation of her empire, her grim expression and familiar down-turned lips looking far from amused.

'The Secret Victorians', Firstsite, The Minories Art Gallery, 74 High Street, Colchester (01206 577067), until 5 Dec then on tour

KATE MIKHAIL

THEATRE

BETRAYAL

LYTTELTON, RNT, LONDON

cast of a house. An eccentric environment for this play? Well, in the desolate scene where the lovers decide to break up, Imogen Stubbs's over-girlish Emma refers to the flat where they have had their afternoon trysts as "an, empty home" and Jerry denies that it is even that. By immuring all the play's episodes in a bleak, soulless travesty of a family habitat (using coloured projections for the decor) the production over-inconsistently requires us to appreciate how the intricate web of family relations has reduced the world to an ashion lie.

This piece is famous for dramatising in an anticlockwise direction the story of a wife's seven-year affair with her husband's best friend, beginning with a meeting long after the liaison is over and ending with the pass at a party that started it all. Nunn's mildly disappointing production elects to shift the action forward by two decades so that the proceedings begin in 1998. Douglas Hodge's excellent Jerry, the literary-agent lover, is now all leather jacket and laddish glibness, a manner in sharp contrast to the stiffly controlling public school department of Anthony Calf's publisher.

The revival's most egregious feature, though, is the set by Es Devlin which looks like a pointed homage to Rachel Whiteread's notorious

chological dynamics. The play insinuates that, in a perverse way, the marriage was sustained by the adulterous *ménage à trois* and that the bond between the two men is underlyingly the most intense. There are moments when the production genuinely shocks you with a sense of this (the nakedly passionate kiss Robert bestows on the weeping Emma after a social visit from Jerry), and moments where the true situation is so blatantly obvious, through inflection and gesture, you feel Jerry must be pathetically thick not to realise that Robert knows.

In the episode where he wrests the revelation from his wife, Calf's Robert superbly conducts a calm, lethal torture of her. But the comedy of the great restaurant scene afterwards – with an unwitting Jerry – does not have its full force here. Robert's sudden vituperative outburst against modern literature is too clearly a spasm of displaced anger and hurt whereas it should confuse Jerry and leave him in the ignominious position of darting from bullets he isn't absolutely sure have been fired. An ultimately undercharged *Betrayal*.

The production flows beautifully, the rewound scenes succeeding each other in a lateral drift across the stage. Subjective recollections (the lapping water of a Venetian lagoon, a little girl's happy laughter etc) are flashed up in bafflingly close black-and-white footage on the set. The impression of moving back and forth in time, of Proustian efforts at retrieval and of following a stream to its poisoned source is powerfully conveyed.

Where this *Betrayal* falls short of excellence, for me, is in the psy-

PAUL TAYLOR

When the clocks go back



CINEMAS NOVEMBER

J.D. WATSON
FILM

The sheer sexiness of strangers

THE BIG PICTURES



ANTHONY QUINN

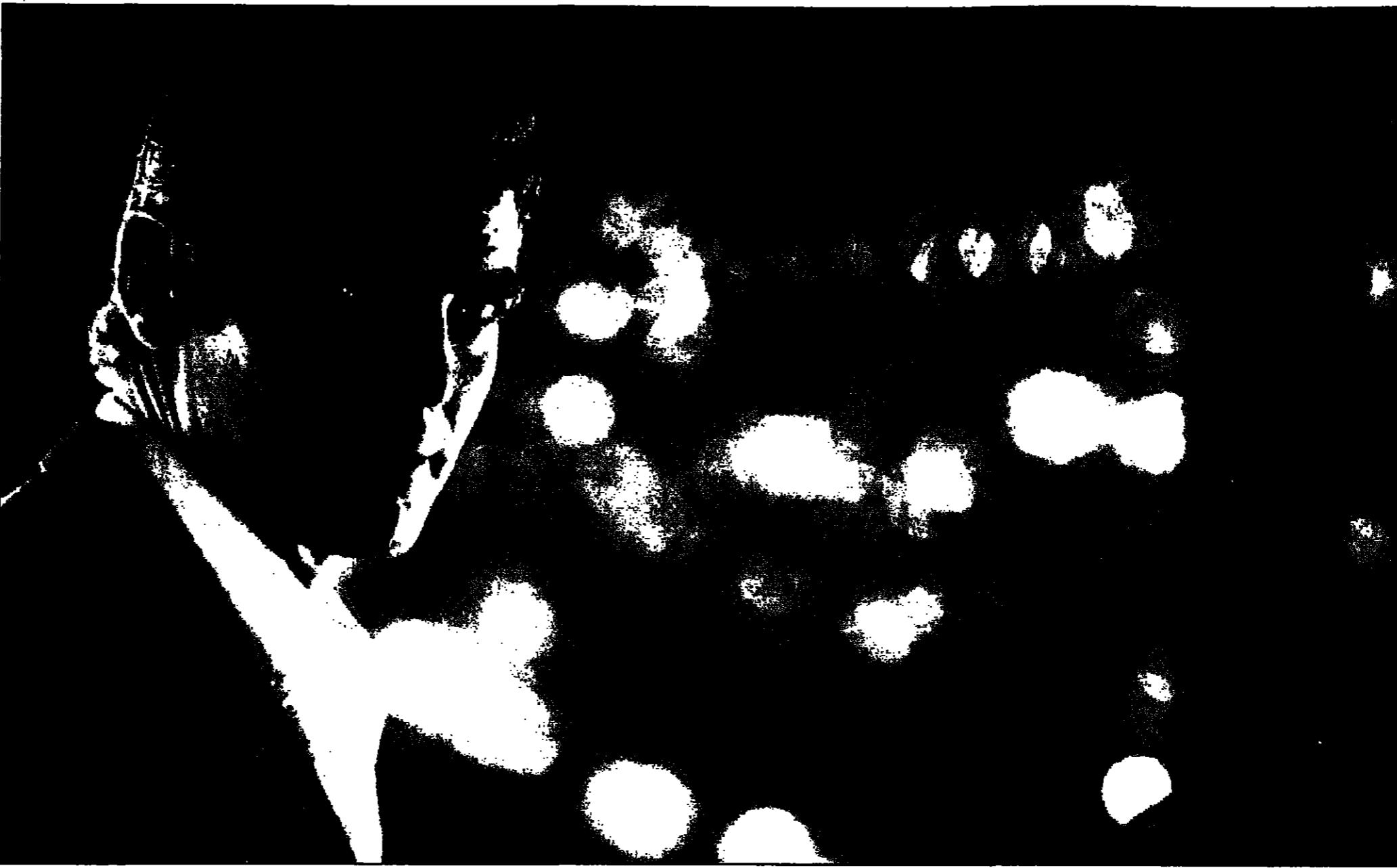
OUT OF SIGHT (15)
DIRECTOR: STEVEN SODERBERGH
STARRING: GEORGE CLOONEY,
JENNIFER LOPEZ, VING RHAMES
123 MINS

THE NEGOTIATOR (15)
DIRECTOR: GARY GRAY
STARRING: SAMUEL L JACKSON,
KEVIN SPACEY, DAVID MORSE
140 MINS

Steven Soderbergh's *Out of Sight* is a wonderfully droll, romantic thriller. More remarkable, it's a wonderfully droll romantic thriller that stars George Clooney. Clooney's presence in three of last year's never-again movies (*One Fine Day*, *Batman and Robin*, *The Peacemaker*) was beginning to look suspicious: maybe that signature tic of ducking his head and raising his eyes, familiar from *ER*, really was all he could do. That and looking like George Clooney.

Now, armed with a fine script (adapted by Scott Frank from the Elmore Leonard novel), and paired with a canny director, he looks amused and at ease; it's the unmistakable bearing of a proper movie star. He plays Jack Foley, a bank robber whose tally of over 200 heists is an FBI record; sadly, he's also spent too many years of his life in prison. At the start of *Out of Sight*, we see Jack in action, walking calmly into a bank and, without the aid of a gun, persuading a cashier to hand over an envelope full of used bills. "Is this your first time being robbed?" he asks her with the casual politeness of a guest at a cocktail party. That's pretty cool, you think, as Jack gets in his car – which won't start. That's not very cool at all and next thing Jack is wheezing through a basement game in the yard of a Florida penitentiary.

The plot starts ticking when Jack breaks out of prison, his friend Buddy (the great Ving Rhames) ready on the other side of the fence to whisk him away. Also close by is Federal Marshal Karen Sisco (Jennifer Lopez), who tries to foil the escape, but instead is bundled into the trunk of the getaway car, where Jack decides to hide with her. Cue one of the similiest introduction scenes in recent cinema: Jack and Karen, lying like spoons in the darkness, almost instantly click with each other, swapping chat about life and movies: *Bonnie and Clyde*, *Network*; Robert Redford in *Three Days of the Condor*. They talk of how things



After a series of flops, George Clooney finally comes of age as a movie star in 'Out of Sight', playing Jack Foley, a bank robber of many heists – and as many years in prison

might have been if they'd met in different circumstances. Karen eventually escapes, but you just know that Jack is going to risk his neck to get her again, and who can blame him?

The faltering sexiness of strangers trying to size each other up recalls a little of Soderbergh's high-profile debut, *Sex, Lies and Videotape* (1989). That film now looks a little sophomore next to the swaggering confidence of *Out of Sight*, but it did give an early indication of what a smart director of actors Soderbergh is. He has persuaded both Clooney and the alarmingly beautiful Jennifer Lopez to think beyond their fabulous looks; there is only one love scene in the whole movie, yet the molten glances between the pair, and the sense of velvety closeness, are far sexier than any

bedroom grappling. Not willing to let romance monopolise the proceedings, Soderbergh has surrounded them with an amazing cast: Don Cheadle as a vicious hoodlum; Steve Zahn as a speed-out, petty crook; Catherine Keener as Jack's ex-wife; Michael Keaton, reprising his role as an unreliable FBI agent from *Tarantino's Jackie Brown*; and, almost unrecognisable with bald pate, Albert Brooks as an insider dealer with \$5m in uncut diamonds stashed away in a Detroit mansion.

As Jack closes in on this booty, and Karen closes in on Jack, the plot becomes a delicate duel of wits between Fed and felon. There is no mistaking the toughness of either of them. Jack, on the evidence of flashbacks to his jailbird days, can look after himself; Karen has had to learn different

tricks as a woman, rebuffing the bar-room overtures of a wheeling ad man with icy pleasantness, and using her night-stick on a more aggressive suitor. Soderbergh doesn't give his characters a lot of back story; there aren't any of the usual boring "demons" driving Karen and Jack towards their fate. He prefers to show his characters thinking and talking, and trusts the audience to make up their own minds as to whether they're on the level. No film has better served Leonard's laconic dialogue, and that includes *Jackie Brown* and *Get Shorty*. Apparently, the only advice Leonard gave screenwriter Scott Frank was to "just have fun". Anyone who knows what's good for them should follow suit.

In an uncredited cameo at the end of *Out of Sight*, Samuel L Jackson plays a con who

describes jailbreak as "an exodus from an undesirable place". In *The Negotiator*, Jackson finds himself in an equally undesirable place: the 26th floor of Chicago Police HQ where, as a decorated cop named Danny Roman, he is holding hostages at gun point. Roman has been driven to this desperate pass after being framed for the murder of his partner, and related charges of pension fund embezzlement; and he's not leaving until he finds out who set him up. Needing an ally, Roman cannily demands a cop from outside the bureau to handle the crisis – enter Chris Sabian (Kevin Spacey), a cool, softly-spoken hostage negotiator who twigs that Roman may be more stained against than sinning.

The Negotiator doesn't stretch the Hollywood thriller much beyond its big, loud,

self-important traditions. Jackson shouts and sweats a lot, Spacey holds back his alligator smirk, while the rest of the cast – David Morse, John Spencer, Ron Rifkin, and the late and much lamented JT Walsh – try for the perfect poker face while the audience sets about playing spot-the-rat. We learn a little about the etiquette of "hostage situations", that "Gimme status" is a new way of saying "Please tell me what's happening", and that Shane might be dead in his saddle as he rides into the distance in *Shane*. The relevance of this last point to the plot is obscure, but at least it gives you something to ponder while waiting for the villain to be unminked, and Jackson to prove his righteousness.

This week's other releases are reviewed on page 12

Bradman Art Life

man who tries to interpret a thing in the light of some single embracing system... he expels himself in many directions as spirit takes him" Pushkin's definition of the poetical art

Elaine French's *Pushkin's*

denfield & Nicollson, £29

it?

hidden behind a giant screen; man erupting to scramble desperately up a wall. It seems an aptly vicious variation of the collapse aesthetic. The Sadler's Wells progressives an open-tasteful of hisdscope means, and amateur humour says he might return one of his composite full-length works. It might be hell for some US heaven for me

32 Nov 1998 8pm NADINE MEYER

go back

biological dynamics. The play indicates that in a perverse twist, Jerry was sustained by the sex acts of his wife and that between the two men it's strikingly the most intense. The moments when the play genuinely shocks you with a genuine, not a naively passable, shattering bel lows on the screen, and moments when the situation is so blatantly obvious through inflection and gesture, Jerry must be pathetically pleased to realise that Robert has

"In the episode where he and Jerry must be pathetically

RUSHES
MIKE HIGGINS

PAUL THOMAS Anderson, the writer and director of *Boogie Nights*, looks like he's snatched a valuable piece of window-dressing for his next production. Tom Cruise is reportedly a great fan of the young director's debut and met Anderson during the final days of his punishing *Eyes Wide Shut* shooting schedule. It was there that the pair first discussed the possibility of Cruise's inclusion in Anderson's next film, *Magnolia*, which will thread together six West-Coast tales, and already includes *Boogie Nights* stars Julianne Moore and William H Macy. Variety reports that the up-and-coming director and superstar are close to clinching a deal in which it is thought Cruise will receive an uncredited cameo and lend his name to the final credits.

The A-lister will have to offer his services cut price, though – his usual \$20m-a-film fee represents about two thirds of *Magnolia*'s budget. Shooting is scheduled to begin in January.

WE ALL know the narcoleptic effect of prolonged exposure to Brad Pitt's acting, and who better to prove the point than the director of Pitt's latest film, and at the expense of it, to boot.

Martin Brest was spotted by People magazine during his way through the recent New York premiere of his new, three-hour \$90m movie, *Meet Joe Black*, in which Pitt plays Death, the eponymous Joe.

Brest lay the blame for the big sleep elsewhere, however: "I had been working around the clock for weeks and weeks and weeks before the premiere," he explained, adding: "I was just so happy

that we had a copy of the movie to show to the audience."

GENERAL MOTORS have decided to take people movers a step further down the road in their emulation of the average sitting room – the GM Silhouette Premiere minivan now comes with a "built-in video entertainment system".

While Mom, Junior and Sis are scrapping over whether *Terms Of Endearment* or *Tekken 3* goes on the flip-down colour monitor, Pops can motor on, chewing up the asphalt in peace.

WINNER PALME D'OR - CANNES FILM FESTIVAL '97

"Wholly original! There are moments of breathtaking beauty and eroticism"

"A bizarre and delirious comedy... Absurdly 'comedy', social satire and... grand poetry" (Daily Mirror, 1997)



NOW SHOWING CURZON

EVERYBODY LOVES JOE!

"TAKE THAT HOLLYWOOD, RIGHT IN THE BALLS!"
"SUPERB"
"EXCEPTIONAL"
"MAGNIFICENT"

The Guardian
The Independent On Sunday
The Sunday Times

Winner Best Actor Peter Mullan Cannes '98
Nominated Best Film Best Director Best Screenplay
Independent Film Awards

A film directed by Ken Loach

My name is Joe

"WONDERFUL"
The Express

"RIVETING"
The Independent

"All other British cinema this year just seems like candyfloss"
The Times

Now Showing
ABC CINEMA
CINEMA CITY
CINEMA CITY
CINEMA CITY
CINEMA CITY

And across the country

willem dafoe irene jacob sam neill rufus sewell

A SPLENDID STUDY OF LOVE AND BETRAYAL
ATMOSPHERICALLY INTENSELY ROMANTIC AND HEARTBREAKING

THE PHILADELPHIA STORY

KODAK ABC CINEMA GLASCOW 0141 227722 EDINBURGH 0131 33326225 NEWCASTLE 0191 23326225 BIRMINGHAM 0121 33326225 TURKISH 01702 33326225 SOUTHAMPTON 01703 33326225

IN CINEMAS NOVEMBER 27th

Open tomorrow

CUTZON 0181 2277222 National Film Theatre South Bank, London SE1 8XX 0171 2277222 CAMEO Edinburgh 0131 2277222

Grace, power, charisma: Bruce Lee had it all. And 25 years after his death, the actor and martial arts expert's influence doesn't stop at film. No. It's that whole guy thing... By Linton Chiswick

Dragon heart

Bruce Lee died a quarter of a century ago, aged 32. He had brought Hong Kong cinema to an international audience, charmed Hollywood, and developed a form of kung fu as rich in philosophy as was acrobatic in kicking style. When the newly fashionable kung fu and karate swept America and Europe, influencing everything from James Bond to the selling of cheap aftershave, Lee taught big screen hard men Steve McQueen, Lee Marvin and James Coburn how to kick above their own height. He was typecast as what commentator Bey Logan (interviewed below) calls "the great Asian master coming to shed his wisdom on the West".

These days, his influence is much more surprising. As London's National Film Theatre prepares for a commemorative season of Lee's work, "Bruce Lee Siu-Lung: The Man, The Myth, The Legend", it is his wide-ranging and discriminating followers who perhaps represent the untold story. Here, three of them tell of his considerable and far-reaching impact.

The Fighter
Guru Lee Banda, World Welterweight Stick Fighting Champion from 1986 to 1998, teaches Jeet Kune Do (Lee's own martial art) at the International Combat Centre in Tonbridge. Banda was taught by five of Bruce Lee's closest students, including the great Dan Inasanto. He doesn't like many martial arts films, but owns all of Lee's.

"I would love it if you would write a piece that would make people realise what a good martial artist and teacher he was. Lots of his fans think he was just a film actor and that it was all trick photography. But although there is a difference between the theatrical kung fu on the screen and that of a combat situation, you still get the sense he could have got away with it all."

But what about his acting? There have been other great fighters, but none have captured the imagination like Lee. "Here was a guy who had one testi-

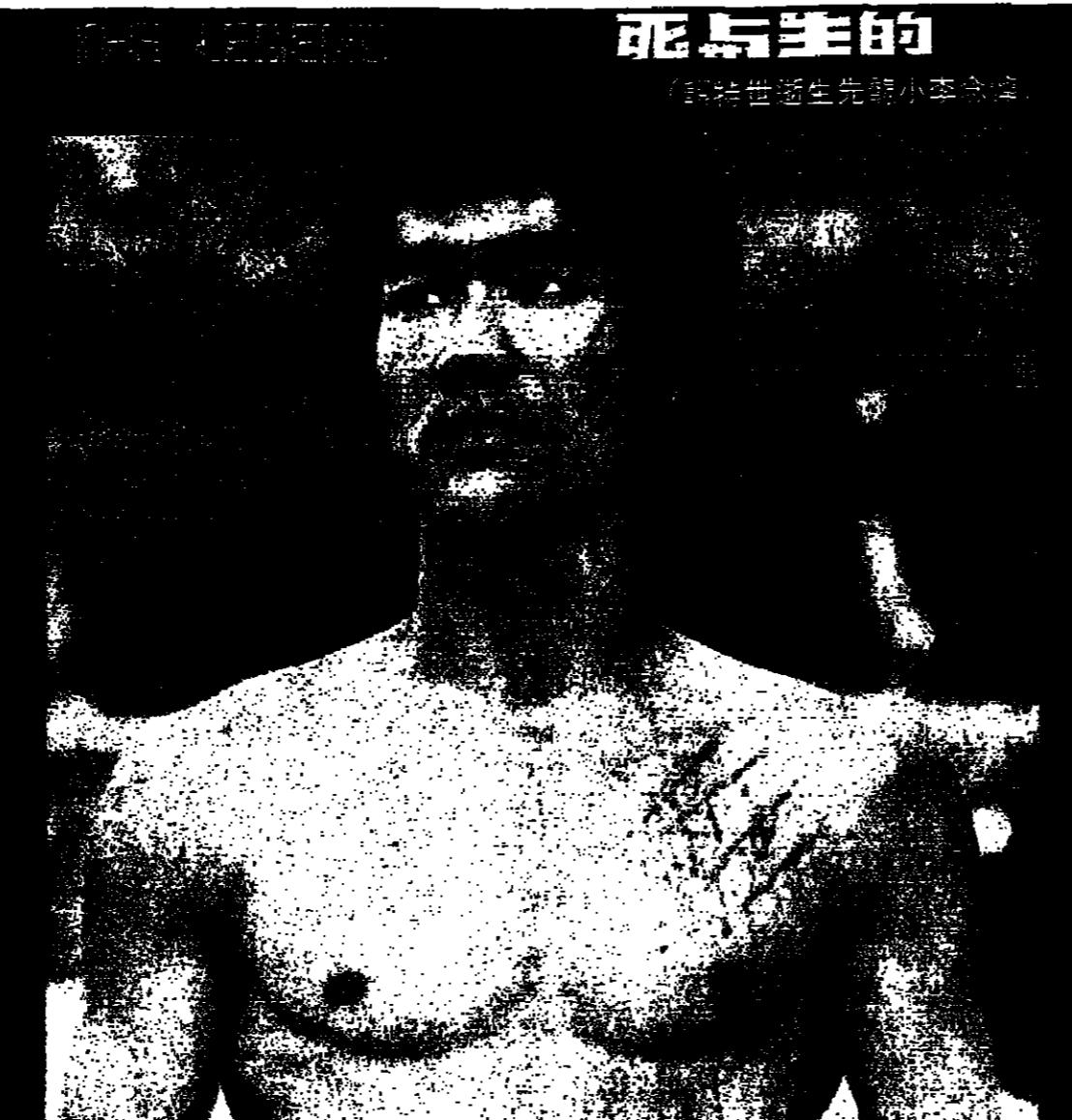
cle, was 5 ft 7", 140 pounds, and yet so graceful and powerful I don't think his speed will ever be matched. He just crackled with charisma."

The Dancer
Award-winning New York dancer and choreographer Doug Elkins, exercises his right to eclecticism, incorporating street-style breakdance and streetwise parody into an electrifying set, seen recently at London's Queen Elizabeth Hall. He's also a fan of martial arts, and practises Brazilian capoeira, Japanese aikido, Chinese "monkey-style", and Shaolin kung fu. He acknowledges the influence of Hong Kong cinema, and particularly the films of Bruce Lee, Jackie Chan and John Woo, on his own work.

"If you look at any kata [the set-piece of movements in martial arts], it's a ritualised choreography," says Elkins. "There's a story being played out. From the kata to the Bruce Lee films, there's movement information in there. Why make distinctions between dance and other movement? It's like the Jeet Kune Do saying: 'Use what is useful'."

Bruce Lee was one-time cha-cha champion of Hong Kong. His films include elaborately choreographed set pieces, shot from a distance, in which whole groups of fighters move as one single organism. When the camera closes in on Lee, the battle is played out in strange, cartoon-like facial gestures. For Elkins, these techniques are part of the fun. "All these gestures, over-emphases ... we in the West may see it as melodrama or over-acting, but it's fascinating. The violence is always done in revenge for something, like 'You've disgraced my sister', or whatever it is in *Enter The Dragon*, when rather than being taken, she takes her own life. Then when he comes and beats the man, there's an almost orgasmic expression of pleasure on his face. It's kind of like the predecessor of *A Clockwork Orange*, except it's morally justified."

So how does an appreciation of Bruce Lee manifest itself in a choreo-



Bruce Lee: no other fighters have captured the imagination like him

grapher's work? "Martial arts offer me something very distinct; very intimate. Whenever you attack someone, whether it's physically or emotionally, you actually make yourself vulnerable by expressing who you are. And with martial arts, when someone's swinging at you, you don't have to pretend. It's like someone slapping their child down in a tube station. You're drawn to it, the actuality of it. It's very dynamic."

The Fan
Bey Logan is the author of *Hong Kong Action Cinema* (Titan) and currently works for Media Asia, the company that owns the rights to the Bruce Lee filmography. Like many of the new generation of Bruce Lee fans, he began watching the films after Lee's death. However, since moving to Hong Kong, he has worked with people who knew Lee during his Hong Kong heyday. What does Logan think it was about the man that still attracts such international fascination?

"His movies celebrate the male aesthetic in a way that men from any background feel comfortable acknowledging. From your choreographer in New York to your truck driver from Bradford, any man can look at a Bruce Lee movie and say: 'Boy, that guy can move!' And then, of course, you have someone who was a philosopher and a marvellous speaker. Only in Bruce Lee did you get this nexus, all these things in one person."

What does Logan make of Lee's odd acting style? Within Lee's extraordinary flirtation with the camera, he occasionally appears to enjoy his own private, post-Modern joke with the audience. "I don't believe Lee was

sending up the Hong Kong style.

Bruce's father was a very famous opera performer and so he'd soak up all those basics as a youngster and then refer to them.

For Logan and countless others, Lee's importance transcends martial arts. "People are always asking how come we haven't had the new Bruce Lee. I say we have, but we haven't recognised him or her. The new Bruce Lee is the choreographer who, in his own art form, has been inspired to transcend the old rules, has had success and said, 'This is my Jeet Kune Do'. If Bruce's legacy has any relevance to the modern world, it must be that. The new Bruce Lee might be a middle-aged woman in Twickenham who started writing poetry after watching *Enter The Dragon*."

"Tracking the Dragon" is at the NFT, London, Sun to 9 Dec

ALSO SHOWING

THE SLUMS OF BEVERLY HILLS
TAMARA JENKINS (15) ■ THE WISDOM OF
CROCODILES PO-CHIH LEONG (18)
IF ONLY MARIA RIPOLL (15) ■ THE
PHILADELPHIA STORY GEORGE CUKOR (U)

IF YOU'VE ever wondered what a "dingbat" is then look no further than *Slums of Beverly Hills*, a modest and very likeable rites-of-passage movie written and directed by first-timer Tamara Jenkins. As 15-year-old Vivian (Natasha Lyonne) explains, dingbats are crummy two-storey apartments, the sort of place where her father (Alan Arkin) tends to install Vivian and her two brothers amid the grubbier districts of Beverly Hills.

The arrival of favourite cousin Rita (Marisa Tomei), a recovering addict, brings the girl some much-needed female company and a useful primer in the joys of the vibrator. While the genre material (loss of virginity, sibling conflict, climactic family bust-up) and the period (the Seventies, of course) have been heavily overworked, Jenkins personalises the story through her forgiving tone, helped no end by Arkin's gruffly affectionate father, Tomei's wayward Rita and Natasha Lyonne's precociously composed heroine.

The Wisdom of Crocodiles opens with the image of a mangled car perched in a tree, and proceeds to scale ever higher towards the inexplicable and absurd. Jude Law plays Steven Griscom, a vampire with a difference: he needs not just the blood of the young women he preys on but their love too. Talk about fussy! His latest target is an alluring beauty named Anna (Elina Löwensohn), who's impressed by the way Steven can sketch upside down and quote from the *Song of Solomon*, little suspecting he's north London's answer to Bela Lugosi.

In the meantime, two police detectives (Timothy Spall and Jack Davenport) are pursuing inquiries into the disappearance of Steven's last girlfriend. Just when you think their investigation is warming up, the film decides to drop them from view altogether. This plot-hole might have been noteworthy if the director's grip on realism were not so tenuous elsewhere. *The Wisdom of Crocodiles* might have got away with being laughable; the fact that it's funded by an Arts Council grant makes it deplorable too.

For her debut feature *If Only* Maria Ripoll deploys the same parallel universe gimmick as *Sliding Doors*. Struggling actor Victor (Douglas Henshall) is muddling over ex-girlfriend Sylvia (Lena Headley), who's about to get married. By the magical intervention of two Hispanic dustmen, Victor is allowed to wipe the slate clean and start over, but his second chance goes awry when he falls in love with Louise (Penelope Cruz) and Sylvia begins an affair with Dave (Mark Strong).

Set around the more photogenic reaches of Notting Hill, the film is the latest in a line of British romantic comedies that want very badly to be the next *Four Weddings and a Funeral*. The usual shortcomings undo it: over-eagerness to please, synthetic characterisation, and a script that just isn't up to snuff.

Considering it's an accredited classic of light comedy, *The Philadelphia Story* (1940) doesn't have that many brilliant lines. Its appeal lies rather in the impeccable timing of the repartee, the graceful playing and the sense of civilised fun that director George Cukor sparks from the tale of a society wedding that threatens to implode. Katharine Hepburn plays the haughty, priggish belle set to marry a respectable dullard when her ex-husband (Cary Grant) shows up to make mischief - and quietly save Hepburn's father from press scandal. Enter a reporter from *Spy* magazine (James Stewart) with photographer (Ruth Hussey) in tow and all the elements of a swooning romantic farce are in place. This was the only time Grant and Stewart appeared on screen together.

ANTHONY QUINN

All films on general release from tomorrow

Dave Allen: On Life £14.99

Alan Davies: Urban Trauma £14.99

Gifts for all sorts at

our price

Printed on recycled paper. © 1998 Virgin Books Ltd. ISBN 0 7535 0500 0

Steve Coogan 'The Man Who Thinks He's It' £13.99

"A STARTLINGLY SEDUCTIVE THRILLER."
DAILY MAIL

"SPINE-TINGLING" "COMPELLING... INTRIGUING."
SKY

"SUPERB DIRECTION... LAW IS BRILLIANT.. EXCELLENT PERFORMANCES"
FILM REVIEW UNCLUT

"ABSOLUTELY COMPELLING...DON'T MISS THIS ONE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES."
STARBURST

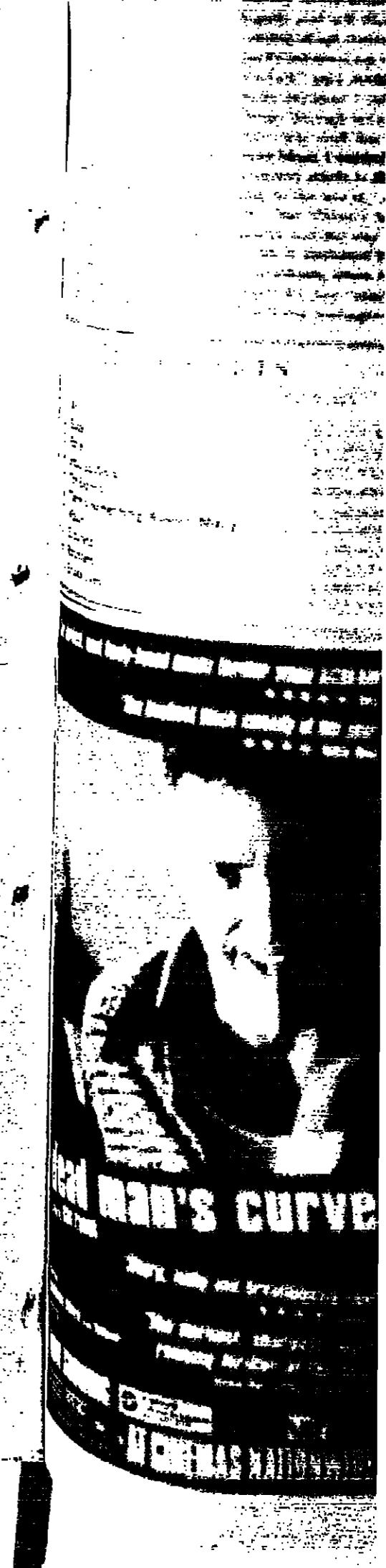
No one is entirely human.

JUDE ELINA LOWENSOHN TIMOTHY SPALL

THE WISDOM OF CROCODILES

It's in the blood.

AND AT CINEMAS NATIONWIDE FROM TOMORROW



My, how she's grown

How to put it delicately? Tamara Jenkins' first movie is a coming-of-age comedy about her adolescent, er, full frontal development. By Liese Spencer

Take one photogenic adolescent. Add a large helping of platinimous life lessons, a smidgeon of sexual experimentation and a dash of adult corruption. Glaze with a saccharine voice-over and what do you have? The coming-of-age drama. This week, however, sees the release of an accomplished swipe at the youth wing of Hollywood's American Dream Factory.

Set in the 1970s, *The Slums of Beverly Hills* offers a blackly comic account of growing up poor in Los Angeles' richest neighbourhood. Seen through the eyes of 15-year-old Vivian Abramowitz, it's an everyday story of divorce, drug addiction and burgeoning bra size which eschews the tedious teleology of most rites-of-passage dramas to deliver an altogether grittier exploration of emotional and economic survival.

As with many first features, Jenkins draws on the experiences of its writer-director. Like Vivian, 27-year-old Tamara Jenkins was brought up by a divorced father and spent her childhood rent-dodging between a series of cheap Beverly Hills motel rooms. "When we moved from the East Coast I thought it would be like Oz. The streets were paved with gold, but we didn't have any. We were living in these crappy little boxes with thin walls that shook during earthquakes," she says. Cramped into such small spaces, Jenkins, like Vivian, had to endure the mortification of puberty as a "spectator sport".

"Looking back, adolescence is really filled with humiliation," says Jenkins. "Living on the outskirts of wealth gives you a massive inferiority complex. That's true of the whole Abramowitz family, but I was especially interested in how that mirrors the inferiority a girl of 15 already feels. Female development is a very public act. This has always fascinated me. Boys' bodies don't change visibly as they reach teenhood, but it's OK for them to stare at their sister's developing chest; it's OK for uncles to say: 'Heavens, you've filled out!' It's a stage when everyone seems to be staring at you and praying on you and I wanted to be honest about that."

Slums is not the first time that Jenkins has plundered her fractured family history for material. The 1990s saw the aspiring actress touring solo show called *A Family Outing* around tiny New England venues. "Yes, I was a teenage performance artist," she confesses. "I would perform in front of photographs that I'd taken from the family album and copied onto slides. I wasn't consciously moving towards making a movie, but in a weird way I was. With me standing in front of the screen, telling the stories that went with the pictures, my show was like the lowest budget, most primitive movie you could make."

Regularly invited to perform in New York, Jenkins eventually moved there and enrolled at NYU film school. After a couple of short films, Jenkins' screenplay for *The Slums of Beverly Hills* was accepted for development at Robert Redford's Sundance screenwriting lab, and later sold to Fox Searchlight. There, it went through another year of pre-pro-



Tamara Jenkins: 'Looking back, adolescence is really filled with humiliation'

duction, and the writer-director found herself under close scrutiny for the first time. "I'd never been confronted with that kind of structure before. I'd made performance art when my parents weren't paying attention, then films at NYU when no one was paying attention, then all of a sudden people were com-

"They were too poised and well-rehearsed," recalls Jenkins. "Luckily, Natasha [Lyonne] wasn't like that. She looked like a puppy whose legs are too long. She had that awkward physicality." Indeed, Lyonne was perfect for the role of Vivian in every respect except for her chest, which was a size 32A.

'There was something of a disparity between my vision and what [the studio] wanted'

menting on what I was doing." Public female development, all over again...

Inevitably the studio was keen to iron out any unmarketable mixed-genre ambiguity and sell *Slums* as another cute coming-of-age comedy. "There was a disparity between my vision and what they wanted," says Jenkins. "In a way I was lucky because I could get some risky things through because I was funny but there was stuff that was supposed to be more bleak. I wanted to explore how your anatomy starts to dictate your relationship to the world," she says. "The anxiety that Vivian's body creates in the family, and the way in which her interior or life is alienated from her exterior."

Ironically, when Jenkins began to audition for her "stacked" ingenue, she found real teenagers too sophisticated

cards came back I felt like an alien in my own land," yelps Jenkins. "Some of the audience had filled in cards saying: 'This film is really depressing, they're poor at the beginning and they're poor at the end.' I couldn't believe there were people who would have that reaction. You know, Vivian and the family grow. You just don't see it in terms of cash. The fact that the family are still poor at the end is the whole point. It's an anti-American dream."

After the test screenings, the studio insisted Jenkins use a voice-over. "I hope it's not oppressive. My fear was that it would suggest some great moral lesson," she says. So is she pleased with how the film turned out? "It's my first feature. My first experience of box-office figures and reviews and all those other things that are used to measure success. But basically in Hollywood it all comes down to money." Jenkins adopts the mindless, sing-song chant of her imagined test audience: "She was poor before she made the movie and she's poor now - so, I guess it wasn't a success." and she laughs the laugh of a teenage performance artist whose survived her first studio movie. After *The Slums of Beverly Hills*, you suspect, Jenkins will never be quite the same again.

The Slums of Beverly Hills is reviewed on page 12

THE CHARTS

TOP 10 UK FILMS (TAKINGS, 20-22 NOV)

1	Antz	£1,357,591
2	Blade	£1,067,918
3	Ronin	£875,545
4	Small Soldiers	£304,437
5	The Exorcist	£282,404
6	There's Something About Mary	£263,955
7	Mulan	£239,462
8	Elizabeth	£203,531
9	Rounders	£189,020
10	Snake Eyes	£162,232

The darkest, most finely-tuned comic thriller since SCREAM
★★★★★ Sky

The liveliest black comedy of the year
★★★★ Daily Mail

dead man's curve
dir. dan rosen
Sharp, witty and breathlessly cool
★★★★ Empire

now showing
matthew lillard vs. SCRATCH
The darkest, sharpest, most
rocking thriller of the year!
Radio One's Film of the Week

"This movie takes the genre of British Comedy to new dizzying heights... warm, funny, stylish comedy romance with rare intelligence and a huge heart."

"A compellingly different and beguiling romance."

douglas henshall
lena headey

AUDIO PLAYING
BLINK
15 mins.
WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY
AMY JENKINS
MUSIC BY
RADIOHEAD

If men and women were emotionally, physically, biologically,
astronomically, domestically,
stylistically, hormonally,
psychologically, orgasmically the
same... life would be easy.

if only
the second chance of a lifetime

STARTS TOMORROW
ODEON ABC ODEON ODEON
MEZZANINE PICCADILLY KENSINGTON SWISS COTTAGE
0870 5050 007 0171 297 3222 0181 315 4213 0181 315 4220
REGENT VIRGIN FULHAM RD
0870 5050 071 0181 315 4220 0181 315 4220

AND AT CINEMAS ACROSS LONDON AND THE COUNTRY

"High-octane thriller..."

Marella Frostrop NEWS OF THE WORLD

"...that stands head and shoulders above the pack"

Caroline Westbrook SKY MAGAZINE

"You're in the presence of two of today's greatest actors"

J.B. MAXIM

"Spacey turns in a performance beyond acting"

THE FACE

"Jackson gives his best performance since Pulp Fiction"

UNTOLD MAGAZINE

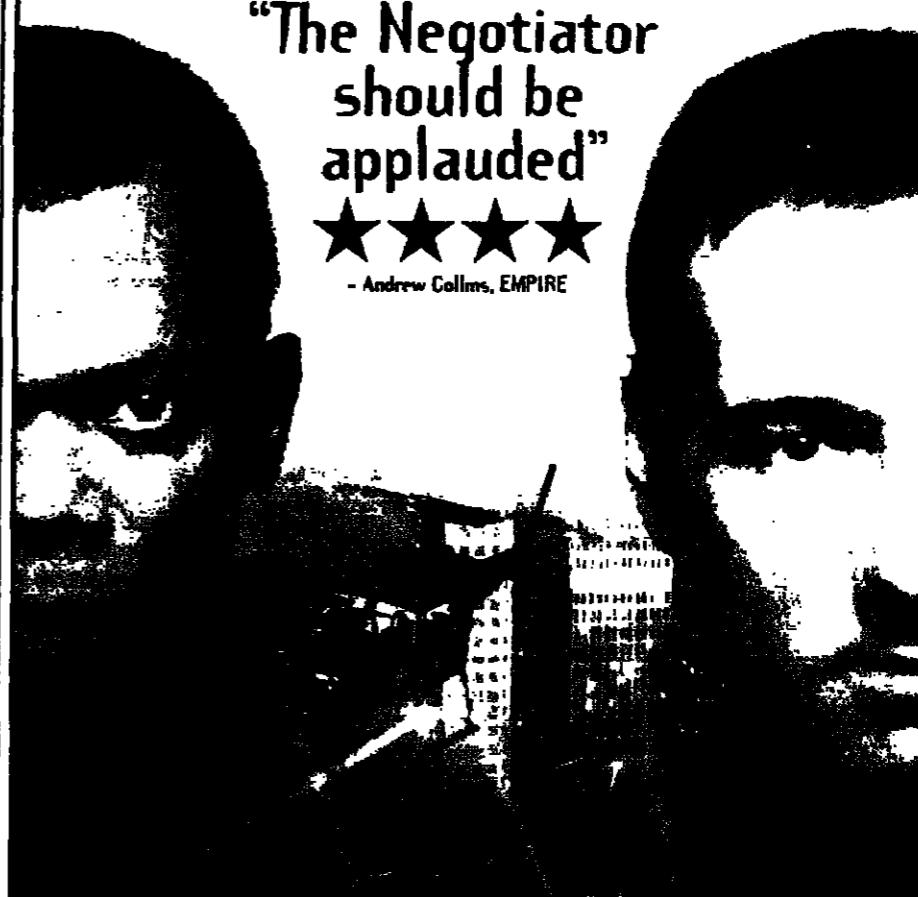
"GREAT ACTION, GREAT ACTORS, GREAT FILM!"

Colin Kennedy SMASH HITS

"The Negotiator should be applauded"



- Andrew Collins, EMPIRE



SAMUEL L. KEVIN
JACKSON SPACEY

THE
NEGOTIATOR

15
JUSTICE
AT ANY PRICE

REGAL CINEMAS • RIALTO • MONTEVIDEO • NEW REGAL • REGENCY
• DAVID GRAY • SAGITTARIUS • KEVIN SPACEY • THE NEGOTIATOR
DAVID GRAY • HUGH GRANT • JOHN SPENCER • J.T. WALSH • GRAHAM BREWELL

DAVID RUCKSAY • ROBERT STONE • WHISTLE STOP
JAMES DEMARCO & KEVIN FOX • DAVID HORBERMAN AND ARNON MILCHAN

E GARY GRAY

REGENT

www.newregency.com

WARNER BROS.

STARTS TOMORROW
IN CINEMAS EVERYWHERE

Call 0800 192192
www.scoot.co.uk

TEL: 0171 293 2222

GRADUATE, GENERAL, PUBLIC

THURSDAY REVIEW
The Independent, 26 November 1998

FAX: 0171 293 2505

BUSINESS CONSULTANTS

Midlands

Our client, the IT subsidiary of a £1.5bn FTSE 100 group with over 3,000 staff and 23 million direct and indirect customers, develop and support complex, leading edge systems to control daily trading of over £150m. The Group has great strengths and a strategy to build on them, focusing on significant investment opportunities in both the UK and Internationally taking them into new dynamic markets.

The Roles

The consultancy department provides advice and support to the rest of the Group's businesses, consultancy services to a range of the Group's customers and provides the main input to the company's overall strategic direction. You will be involved in:

- working closely with Marketing and Sales in identifying and obtaining new business
- working closely with customers to provide solutions to their business problems
- taking responsibility for a business area, analysing business options and providing feasibility studies and systems modelling
- keeping the company and customers informed on market trends and developments and their business implications
- translating the customers statement of requirements in to formal specification for software systems.

The Ideal Candidate

You will be an intuitive, pro-active individual with a good combination of business and financial skills, keen to enhance and develop these in a consultancy environment. You will have either:

- a depth of consultancy experience and be looking for a more senior role or
- 2 years business experience with a technical/business degree looking for an environment to develop in.

To apply for this position, or for a more detailed discussion, please contact: Robert Zajko @ DRAZ DEARMAN ASSOCIATES on 0171 419 0291. Alternatively post, fax, or E-mail your CV (quoting reference OT0754) to: Draz Dearman Associates, Charlotte House, 14 Windmill Street, London W1P 2DY. Tel: 0171 209 1000 Fax: 0171 813 4055. E-mail: rz@dradearman.com Web site: http://www.dradearman.com



THE SCOTTISH OFFICE

HM Chief Inspector of Fire Services for Scotland

Applications are invited for the post of HM Chief Inspector of Fire Services for Scotland which will become vacant when the current post-holder, Mr A N Morrison, CBE, QFSM, retires in April 1999.

You will be expected to take up appointment by 1 May 1999 at the latest.

You will be accountable directly to the Secretary of State for Scotland and will advise him, The Scottish Office Home Department and fire authorities on fire matters. You will be responsible for managing the Inspectorate and for providing an independent assessment of the effectiveness and efficiency of fire brigades in Scotland. You will have a pivotal position in the relationship between Central Government, fire authorities and fire brigades, and will have the opportunity to make significant contributions at national level on matters relevant to the Fire Service. You will have a key role in promoting cost-effective management and best practice throughout brigades.

You must have extensive recent fire service experience at senior rank - preferably at Firemaster or Chief Fire Officer level - in a local authority fire brigade. A thorough knowledge of the organisation and operational procedures of local authority fire brigades is vital, as is skill in presenting clear reports on complex issues both orally and in writing. Considerable negotiating and interpersonal skills will also be required.

The appointment will be for a fixed-term of 3 years in the first instance with the possibility of extension and salary will be in the range of £75,669-£82,874. Limited relocation expenses will be available if you have to move house to take up appointment.

Further details and an application form (to be returned by Friday 11 December 1998) are available from The Scottish Office, Recruitment Unit, Room 313, 16 Waterloo Place, Edinburgh, EH1 3DN, telephone 0131 244 3982 (or E-mail Stuart.downes@s053.scotoff.gov.uk providing your full postal address).

An Equal Opportunities Employer

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

H O M E D E P A R T M E N T

VBA ANALYST PROGRAMMER

Salary £30-40K (paid in US\$)

Operating Systems: DOS, Windows 95 and 98, Windows NT 4.00 Applications: Microsoft Office 4.00, 95 and 97 Accounting Software: Any version Securities Financial Systems. Programming: VBA, Visual Basic General Administration of applications: Internet, E-Mail, Communications and Securities Finance Packages.

Prestigious Global Equities House based in Thailand with offices around the Pacific Rim and Eastern Europe. Urgently seek to recruit a VBA Analyst Programmer Responsible for analysing and reporting upon existing database structures, with a view to presenting Management Reports. Undertaking development projects. Tight integration with standard accounting database, as well as with Access and Excel data and reports.

An understanding of trading and securities systems gained from a stockbroking or a financial sector background.

Management of multinational and expatriate Managers and staff, who are sited remotely and in situ.

Working with clerical staff from developing economies including the former Soviet Bloc. Ability to communicate effectively across a wide range of cultures.

Proven experience of using stated systems in a real time environment, in a supervisory capacity.

Astonia Associates

Coppice House, Room 414, 16 Brune Street, London E1 7NU

Tel: 0171 721 8414, Fax: 0171 721 7418. Email: astonrec@aol.com

A sales career in radio

Due to phenomenal success our client Chrysalis Radio, is seeking to expand its London advertising sales team by recruiting a number of graduate trainees.

Following training, successful applicants would plan and schedule radio advertising campaigns and liaise with the UK's top media buying agencies. Candidates must have the potential for promotion to a full sales executive position.

These positions offer a good basic salary, high bonus potential, recognised training and significant development opportunities in a fast growing and exciting industry. If you are a strong communicator, graduate calibre with IT literacy and good basic numeracy, send your CV to John Reilly, Reilly Recruitment, 8 Buckingham Street, London WC2N 6BU. Fax 0171 930 1011. E-mail john@reillyrecruitment.co.uk.

Chrysalis Radio

IF YOU WANT TO TRAIN,
MONEY NEEDN'T HOLD YOU BACK.

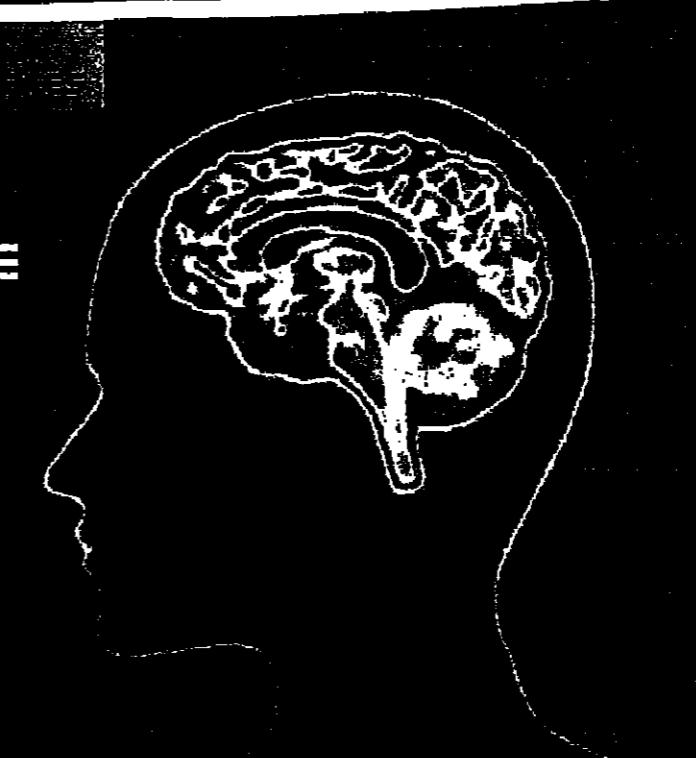
www.lifelonglearning.co.uk

With a Career Development Loan you can borrow from £300 to £8,000 and not pay anything back until you finish your education or training. Your course can last up to 3 years and can include work experience. The loans are Government Sponsored from selected High Street Banks. For more information call 0800 585505 or send the coupon to Career Development Loans, Freepost, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE85 1BR.

Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms/Ms)
Address
Postcode
Telephone

FREE YOUR POTENTIAL WITH
A CAREER DEVELOPMENT LOAN.

This is where
tomorrow's
battles will
be fought



Can you get your head around it?

Up to £18,500 & benefits - Southern England

How should the UK defend itself in the 21st Century? How could our armed forces protect themselves against biological attack? What new equipment do our military personnel need and how would it alter battle plans?

These are the sorts of far-reaching questions tackled by operational analysts here at DERA (the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency). As a prime source of technical expertise to the MOD, we advise top-level decision makers on national defence policy, strategy and procurement. Do you have the brain power to tackle such complex issues?

We are now looking for fresh talent to join the lateral thinkers within our Centre for Defence Analysis (CDA) and Chemical and Biological Defence Sector (CBD). As an Operational Analyst you will work within teams solving real and often highly sensitive problems. Starting with an open mind, you will examine the issues from all angles and think through the permutations. Ultimately you will present your answers - typically as a range of solutions - complete with likely consequences - often at the highest levels of Government or the Military.

We're not looking for any particular academic discipline, as long as you are numerate and have just graduated - or expect to graduate next year - with a good honours degree. Far more important will be the quality of your mind... your ability to think originally and creatively... to 'solve problems logically and rationally... to use common sense and see the big picture... yet deliver results to tight deadlines.'

For bright team-players with a 'can-do' approach there are unique opportunities to use your special talents. There are no other jobs like this in the UK. Apart from the satisfaction of making a direct contribution to the defense of our country, you can look forward to an attractive rewards package and exceptional opportunities for career development. These positions are offered on a permanent basis.

DERA welcomes applications from suitably qualified people regardless of sex, marital status, race or disability.

We also have other graduate vacancies across a range of disciplines throughout our organisation.

For an information pack and application form, please contact, quoting reference GR13, Graduate Recruitment, DERA, Fraser Eastney, Portsmouth, Hampshire PO4 9UJ. Tel: 01705 335588 (24 hour answerphone). Closing date for receipt of completed applications: 18th December 1998.

www.dera.gov.uk

DERA

DERA is an Agency of the MOD

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
PROJECT MANAGER (EUROPEAN)

starting salary £22,000

North West London Training and Enterprise Council and Business Link encourages economic growth in Brent and Harrow by providing a range of services aimed at supporting business competitiveness and improving the skills and qualifications of local people.

During this exciting period of development, we are seeking to recruit an experienced European focused, dynamic and creative manager who will have a strategic role in developing innovative products to meet the evolving needs of the organisations' customers.

Ideal candidates for this important role will have a proven track record of winning funding, developing and evaluating projects from early concept through research, bidding and piloting to a successful refined product ready for handover to operations. You will also have a clear understanding of European funding opportunities and experience of how this is used in practice, plus a strong network of European contacts to draw on. All products and services need to be driven by customer needs.

You will, of course:

- have proven bid writing skills
- have proven project and financial management skills
- demonstrate well-developed powers of persuasion and negotiation
- be IT literate and have sound administrative skills

In addition, you will have an economics background, be conversant with quality systems and demonstrate an understanding of equality.

For an application form and more information please ring 0181 901 5000/5153 or email us at vacancies@nwltc.co.uk

Closing date for completed application is Monday 7th December 1998.

North West London TEC and Business Link is committed to equal opportunities.

We guarantee to interview all disabled applicants who meet the minimum criteria.

Executive Producer
(Europe and Asia et al.)

BACK ROW PRODUCTIONS

We are looking for a world-class producer, experienced in key elements of theatrical development - commissioning, dramaturgy and directing - as well as an ability to oversee our existing and evolving drama and dance projects in Europe, Asia, Africa and Australasia. The successful candidate must be familiar with the theatre system and personnel in the above territories and be able to handle large-scale productions in both sit-down and touring situations.

We are seeking an entrepreneurial type who is both artistically and financially astute and responsible. Salary in the £20K plus range. Send CV's to:

BACK ROW PRODUCTIONS
Garrick Theatre, 2 Charing Cross Road,
London WC2H 0RH.
Applications close 31st December, 1998

Marketing and Operating Manager

required

for established autoparts importer/exporter to expand existing Middle Eastern market and develop new markets in the CIS. Must be a graduate in a business related discipline and have proven managerial skills in a related sector. A record of success in a competitive Middle Eastern business environment is essential.

Language skills in Azeri, Turkish and Farsi are imperative.

Salary level £22-28k.

Applications (including CV) to:

Mr H. R. Kalantarian,
Hillier Parts Co. Ltd,
28 Gorsedd Road,
London NW10 6LE.

Parallel Parents

1. Co-ordinator
£19,24 - £30,405 + 8% Benefits Package

2. Manager - Training, Quality Standards and Contracting

£25,240 - £21,357 + 8% Benefits Package

(Starting salary based on qualifications and experience)

Parallel Parents is a voluntary, non-profit making organisation based in Stockport. Our objectives are the provision of high quality fostering, training and child-centred social work practice. In anticipation of changes to the regulatory framework and the introduction of fees, we are seeking to restructure our staff team. Although independent, Parallel Parents is supported by Care Today, a major provider of residential child care in the North-West.

1. Co-ordinator - Applicants must have extensive experience and knowledge of family placement as well as proven management ability. Dip.S.W. or equivalent essential.

2. Manager - Training etc. - Applicants must have demonstrated interest/experience in social work training and, ideally, in monitoring good practice and contract compliance. Dip.S.W. preferred but other appropriate qualifications considered.

Further details: Tel: 0161 429 9891

(Answering machine out of hours)

Or write to: Parallel Parents,

95 Wellington Road North

Stockport SK6 2LP

For informal discussion, ask for Dr Fitzpatrick.

Closing date: 2 weeks from appearance

I am an ex
assistant, but



I may have no job or money but what I do have is possibilities,' says Rob Kay who recently left his well-paid IT job

Neville Elder

New labour, new life

Switching careers as recession looms may seem like an insane gamble. But if you're in the wrong job, it could save your health and offer a new direction in your working life. By Annabelle Thorpe

Rob Kay, a successful 27-year-old director of his own IT company, recently joined the ranks of the unemployed - out of choice. A contract with a large company had come to an end and, despite the offer of a lucrative promotion, he tidied his desk, drank his leaving beers and is currently living with one ear to the phone waiting for offers of new work.

"I have a fear of getting trapped in a company where the salary and responsibility are so much that I can't afford to leave, even though I don't actually know if the job is right for me," he explains.

He is not alone. "Feeling that you are in the wrong job is a very common problem for people in their twenties," claims Ben Fletcher, dean of the business school at the University of Hertfordshire. "Many people are unsure as to what career would suit them best, and many take the first job that comes along which sounds vaguely interesting and has a decent salary. Years later they find themselves stuck in a career that doesn't suit them, trapped by their position and salary."

Managing IT projects is certainly something Rob had never imagined doing at university. But like many students, he had never really imagined doing anything in partic-

ular. "I just sort of fell into banking after I graduated. The money was good and I had huge debts to pay off, so I progressed into IT without really meaning to. The problem is I'm not sure that this is what I want to be doing for the rest of my life, and the only way to find out what I do want is to break with routine and try different things."

An insane gamble? Not according to Professor Fletcher, who maintains the risks are bigger if you stay. "On a superficial level, unhappiness at work can cause frustration and stress, but it can also lead to depression and even physical problems such as heart disease." The best time to make the break, he adds, is during your twenties; a time when money and status are not as critical as they tend to be in later life.

But with the job market slowing down and more candidates becoming available for fewer jobs, the decision to change one's career can seem ludicrous to even the most daring of people. Angela Edward, a policy advisor at the Institute of Personnel & Development (IPD), however, claims a recession may actually be beneficial to career-changers. "Recruiters are saying at the moment that they need people with good interpersonal abilities, who can cope with change, who are flexible and who have good transferable skills. A recession means

sions every six months, most employers understand that as we grow older and develop, so we may change what we want to do with our working lives."

The leisure industry is particularly honest about this. No surprise, then, that it is currently a top option for twenty-somethings looking for a career change. The graduate Sarah Milne found herself running a busy Harvester outlet near Wolverhampton despite the fact that her degree and experience are in interior design. "Companies are more interested in your future capability than your past," she explains.

Cindy Jeffries, who left her legal career to become a bar manager, never looked back. "After I graduated, I took some temping work with a legal firm. They turned out to have a lot of showbusiness clients, and at first it seemed quite glamorous and exciting. When they suggested I took legal exams, I went for it without really thinking."

But over time, Cindy became cynical. "One night I was moaning away about work when one of my friends said, 'Since when did you want to be a solicitor anyway? You always wanted to run your own bar.' It was like a complete bolt from the blue. I'd got so caught up in passing exams and moving up the career ladder that I'd forgotten about my real dreams and ambitions."

There are two aspects to a job," explains Professor Fletcher. "Motivators and hygiene factors. Hygiene factors are things like money, working conditions, travel time, colleagues: all the superficial things that most of us value incredibly highly. But it's the motivators that are far more important - responsibility, satisfaction - aspects of your job that make your day worthwhile and make you satisfied with how you have spent your time."

The psychologist Clara Johnson says that it isn't always necessary to leave one's old job before looking for another. "Often the best way is to re-

search a new career while you're still in the old one. Read up about it, learn about companies who could be potential employers. If there are qualifications you can gain, do them by distance learning or at night school. Take a week off work and try out legal exams, I went for it without really thinking."

In any case, adds Johnson, if all else fails, you can always go back. "Some people need to leave a job before they appreciate what they had, and that doesn't have to be a bad thing. You may not be able to get your old job back, but there will be other similar jobs. The most important thing is to get some perspective on what you're doing and make sure it's what you really want."

A career break is another safe alternative. "Increasingly available in larger companies, career breaks provide the opportunity for staff to take unpaid leave for several months at a time, giving them an excellent chance to try out a new career path," says the careers advisor, Charlotte Ashby.

"I may have no job or money," concludes Rob Kay, one week into his enforced unemployment, "but what I do have is possibilities. As long as I stayed at the bank I had one possibility, the bank. Now that I'm free, the possibilities are endless. It's a scary prospect. But it's also hugely exciting."

A-Z OF EMPLOYERS

LEHMAN BROTHERS

Age: 148

History: Brothers Henry, Emanuel and Mayer Lehman founded the company in Montgomery, Alabama, as a commodities and trading operation. They soon acquired a seat on the New York Stock Exchange, and more than 100 years later were bought by American Express, gaining a place on the London Stock Exchange in 1986. Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc was formed in August 1993, and six months later, the firm separated from American Express and became a public company.

Address: World headquarters are in the World Financial Centre, New York. European headquarters are in Broadgate, central London, and Asia-Pacific headquarters are in Tokyo.

Ambience: Dynamism and purpose are very evident here and the firm insists on professionalism and competitiveness. Employees wear smart dress except on Friday, when they dress down.

Vital statistics: Last year's net revenues were \$2.873 million, with an income of \$617 million. The company has around 8,300 employees, with 1,500 based in the UK. There are 39 Lehman Brothers offices worldwide.

Lifestyle: Hours can be from 7am to 7pm. Foreign travel is par for the course, and many employees spend more time on the road than in the office. Extended placements to locations such as Tokyo or Chicago aren't uncommon.

Easy to get into? The firm takes on 60 or 70 graduates each year, from 8,000 applications. Divisions include capital markets, investment banking, technology and

finance. High grades in A Levels and GCSEs are a bonus, and a minimum 2.1 degree is required in a subject such as maths, engineering, economics, computer science, physics and politics.

Candidates should also be bright, articulate and ambitious, and able to work well in a team. For more details, see the company website at www.lehman.com.

Glittering alumnus: The Hon Raymond Seitz, former US Ambassador to the UK, is the firm's vice-chairman. Crown Prince Kyril of Bulgaria works for Lehman's asset management arm, and former employees include Ansley Harriott.

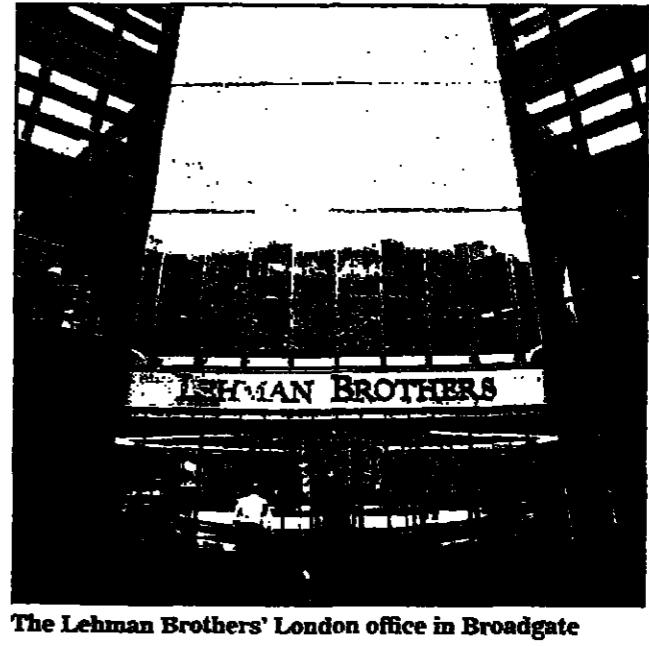
Pay: Figures were not disclosed, but salaries are "very competitive" and there's no upper limit. Performance counts for all, and there's a package of benefits including health care and a share ticket loans.

Training: Global training is held in New York; it's class-room-based and lasts for four weeks. There's also an ice-breaking exercise for new recruits in upstate New York. Back in London, there's more training and on-the-job exercises. Sponsorship is also available for MBA study.

Facilities: In London, there is an ice rink right outside head office, and there are discount arrangements at local gyms. There's also a snack bar on the trading floor, plus a 40-foot Christmas tree in the company's atrium during December.

Who's the boss? Bruce Lakefield, a former submarine commander in the US Navy, is chairman of Lehman Brothers in Europe.

RACHELLE THACKRAY



The Lehman Brothers' London office in Broadgate

HELP DESK

YOUR CAREER PROBLEMS SOLVED BY THE EXPERTS

'I am an experienced trader's assistant, but can't find a job'

The problem
I worked as a trader's assistant for a large American broking house in the City from 1991 to 1997. My hours were from 7am to 5pm - although I rarely left before 8pm - and my annual salary was £15,000. But they were unwilling to offer me the opportunity to progress. Since I resigned, I have been actively seeking employment in either a similar position or in settlements. I have joined over six reputable London agencies and have also kept in contact with former colleagues and clients. I have, however, been unable to find any temporary or permanent full-time work. Where am I going wrong?
MARC SEDGE, LONDON

The solutions
Nicholas Goulding from International Search, a leading executive search firm specialising in the financial services sector, says: Identify the value that you would bring to a potential employer in terms of your skills and experience. This, after all, what an employer is "buying". Secondly, identify the largest employers in the sector that you are interested in, and write to the respective heads of department, enclosing your CV. Follow up your letter with a telephone call. If you cannot reach the head of department, find out where it would be a good time

to call (such as after trading hours). When you do get through, be friendly. If they cannot help, ask if they can suggest whom you should contact.

Giles Brody, managing director of Brady International, a career management consultancy serving the City, with many financial institutions as well as private individuals among its clients, says: Having worked in the trading environment, you are obviously familiar with marketing and selling. It looks as if you enjoy the responsibility of office management and administration, and your market sector knowledge is the City. You are clearly conscientious and are prepared to work long hours when it is necessary.

I would therefore suggest aiming to move away from broking and into an industry which serves the City. Use your sales and marketing skills to sell products into a sector you know. Sales support may be just right for you. Identify market sectors where your knowledge will bring benefit.

How about software or software solution companies? What about online data feed providers? You know the needs of their clients and you speak the language. Find out who the main players are and contact them direct. If they are looking for people, they will be delighted not to pay an agency fee!

COMPILED BY CARMEN FIELDING

If you have a work problem and want expert advice, write to Carmen Fielding, Fast Track, Features, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL; fax 0171 293 2182; e-mail: c.fielding@independent.co.uk

Figuring it all out

Paul Gosling looks at what counts in the world of accountancy

survey and helped analyse it. She was surprised by the results. She says: "We hoped to show that there wasn't the same need for mathematical skills, but that did not come out at all. Instead, we found that design and creative skills are required as well, to give presentations using IT. Much of accountants' work is not just about number-crunching, but about finding creative solutions either for their own employers, or as accountants advising clients."

In other respects, though, the demands on accountants are changing. Accountants are now expected to be wizards with information technology. Moreover, they should learn to work from a variety of IT platforms, and be capable of using several software packages.

One of the most important skills for today's accountant is to present complex financial information in a clear and relevant way to directors and managers, using new technology.

The other key skill highlighted in the latest survey strongly reflects the modern commercial environment. Accountants should learn transferable skills, enabling them and their employers to adapt to new and changing situations and contexts.

The New Accountants Skill Survey was conducted by the Institute of Financial Accountants together with the Edexcel Foundation, which is responsible for the BTEC higher national diploma in business and finance - a two-year, degree-level qualification with a strong emphasis on practical content and work placement - and the parallel part-time national certificate. The diploma is offered by 230 further and higher education institutes, including most of the former polytechnics, with more than 20,000 students studying it.

Survey results are being presented on Friday to an independent-sponsored conference of recruitment agents, other accountancy institutes and education tutors. The findings will influence the future curriculum and examinations for the diploma.

Angela Hockley, business development manager for Edexcel, initially proposed the

time to lecture on tax. It may be that a person coming in from outside to lecture on tax could use off-the-shelf materials."

Mr Dunn hopes his work will help the IFA to become better known, and more highly regarded. Although the IFA was established in 1916 as the Institute of Bookkeepers and is older than some of the major accountancy institutes, it has been treated rather as a second-tier body. It is determined to challenge that view.

The IFA is lobbying to be recognised by the European Union as a professional body, threatening legal action if recognition is not awarded.

It also wants to join the sector's joint consultancy forum, the Consultative Committee of Accountancy Bodies, which contains the three chartered institutes of England and Wales, Scotland, and Ireland, together with the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants and the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy.

Leon Hopkins, the editor of the IFA's journal *Financial Accountant*, argues that the IFA's qualification is well respected by businesses, although the qualification is different from that of the other institutes. IFA students are often more mature, with greater work experience.

"The other institutes' exams need employer support, which the IFA doesn't have, so it is unlikely to be the first choice for graduates," he says. "But it is a good choice for people who find themselves in accountancy in their mid to late twenties."

Hugh Laing, the newly appointed chairman of the IFA's council, plans a more aggressive campaign to promote the IFA and its sister body, the International Association of Bookkeepers. "We have to concentrate on shouting much louder about ourselves than we have in recent years."

The IFA conference, sponsored by *The Independent*, is tomorrow at the Kennedy Hotel, Cardington Street, London NW1.

Justice can be blind

The blind have a future on the bench. By Grania Langdon-Down

When Diane Cram takes her place today on the magistrates' bench, a gentle squeeze on her hand by the chairman will warn her when to bow as she can see nothing - neither light nor dark. But, with her nine-year-old German Shepherd guide dog, Prudence, at her feet, Mrs Cram is determined to maintain the dignity of the court and dispense justice as clear-sighted as her fellow Justices of the Peace (JP).

Mrs Cram, 43, who has been totally blind for 15 years after suffering penicillin poisoning as a teenager, is the first blind fully-qualified JP to hear cases in the magistrates' court. She admits to being very nervous before her first day on the Exeter and Wonford Bench last Thursday. Her main concern by the end of the day was how she could manage the magistrates' heavy chairs. Today is her second day on the Thursday bench and her last for the year - a new rota will start in the New Year, when she will sit regularly.

"I was terribly nervous. But I didn't feel that there was anything I could not cope with, I missed, during the day's hearings. The solicitors were aware of the situation, so they clarified points verbally rather than just referring to notes or reports.

"We heard a variety of cases - bail being broken, a combination order of probation and community service not being kept, and I wasn't out of line with what the others on the bench were thinking."

In fact, she admits, the only concession that there was anything unusual, or that any change had to be made in court to cater for her lack of sight was that a bowl of water was put in court for Prudence.

Mrs Cram says that before she was appointed to the bench, she went with a friend to listen in on a case in court. Her friend remarked that the defendant was fifty, whereas Mrs Cram said she thought that he sounded quite respectable.

She says: "Appearances shouldn't make a difference, but some people might have thought that he was guilty because of the way he looked. I wouldn't choose to be blind, but there is some advantage in not being judgemental for its own sake."

Andrew Minnick, Clerk to the Justices at the court, says they did not intend making any reference to Mrs Cram's blindness when she was in court. "It would be embarrassing for her and would make the court somehow extraordinary when it shouldn't be."

The court would make sure that she was not listed to hear certain types of cases such as those involving video or identification evidence or a large amount of documents, he adds.

Three other visually impaired candidates, who will start hearing cases in the New Year, were selected with Mrs Cram during the summer to take part in a pilot scheme to see whether the requirement of "satisfactory sight" should still apply to the magistrate.

The Royal Commission on Justice of the Peace concluded 50 years ago that blind people should not be allowed to become JPs because they could not read documents, examine plans or observe the demeanour of witnesses, and they would not have the confidence of the public.

However, the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Laird, has argued



Diane Cram and Prudence: the only concession made in court was a bowl of water for the dog

that, with the exception of a minority of cases, blind people should be allowed to become magistrates. He will review their progress after a year. The prospect of blind magistrates has not been universally welcomed. Sir Michael Ogden QC, who retired last year after 33 years as a part-time judge, argues that "a zeal to avoid discrimination may in this instance result in injustice to either prosecution or defence, in some cases because the blind JP will not be able to observe the demeanour of a witness."

Sir Michael says he has received support for his views from magistrates around the country. He dismisses the Lord Chancellor's argument that blind magistrates would not be sitting alone but as members of a bench of three which would pool its assessments. He considers it is wrong to have anyone on the bench who is not fully effective.

Blind people do many remarkable jobs, he concedes, but they should accept that it is not possible in a courtroom.

Sir Michael says he has received support for his views from magistrates around the country. He dismisses the Lord Chancellor's argument that blind magistrates would not be sitting alone but as members of a bench of three which would pool its assessments. He considers it is wrong to have anyone on the bench who is not fully effective.

Blind people do many remarkable jobs, he concedes, but they should accept that it is not possible in a courtroom.

Lynda Belton, who will be sitting in Leicester, has no truck with Sir Michael's objections. "No one will be disadvantaged by having me on the bench hearing their case."

A magistrate's main job is to listen, apart from reading the odd report, and I can listen as well as anybody else. What other people pick up from body language, I can

get from the intonation in someone's voice."

Mrs Belton, 49, has no central vision but some peripheral vision, so while she cannot read, recognise people or drive a car, she can walk around "perfectly normally".

Nick Watson, who is Clerk to the Justices in Leicester, believes that her training has gone very well. He is pressing the Lord Chancellor's Department for authorisation for a £3,000 optical character reader which scans printed documents and reads them back over headphones.

It soon became clear my pre-

conceptions were absolutely ridiculous and that blind magistrates could operate in a very effective way - it was quite a conversion," he said.

Mr Brewer says that the principal difficulty would arise over cases with a high element of visual evidence, such as a dangerous driving

Clerk to the Justices at Swindon Magistrates' Court where Giles Currie and Peter Carr will be sitting. He was candid about his initial views about the ability of blind magistrates to cope.

It soon became clear my pre-

conceptions were absolutely ridiculous and that blind magistrates could operate in a very effective way - it was quite a conversion," he said.

Mr Currie, 64, suffers from a deteriorating eye condition diagnosed 40 years ago. He cannot read but has scanned the 200-page Magistrates' Handbook into his computer which can read it back to him. This provides guidance on offences and penalties, given aggravating or mitigating factors, to ensure consistency of sentencing.

"It is fair to say that if I was involved in a motoring case and the whole thing hinged on a photo of a double-decker bus wrapped around a lamp-post, I wouldn't be very good. But they understand this at the court. They know in advance roughly what the evidence is going to be and can steer one away from cases where it is very visual."

"It is also inconceivable that I would sit with my good friend Peter Carr, so in a bench of three, there will always be two sighted magistrates."

Mr Currie also points to another benefit: "The legal establishment is totally mesmerised about whether people are Freemasons. If someone starts making semaphore signals from the dock, it's not going to influence me."

There is evidence that the black community will be disproportionately affected by the proposed changes and this could well undermine any future efforts to improve their relationship with the criminal justice system.

Research published by the Runnymede Trust in 1990 showed that of defendants who had a choice, one third of Asian defendants, slightly fewer white defendants, but nearly one half (45 per cent) of Afro-Caribbean defendants chose to be tried in front of a

"Body language is an unreliable measure of truth, and it is open to blind magistrates to judge someone's truthfulness from clues other than visual ones'

This would enable Mrs Belton to consider pre-sentence reports or doctor's certificates along with her colleagues on the bench. Handwritten letters would have to be read out to her.

Mr Watson says: "I was led to believe that there would be no difficulties, because of the importance the Lord Chancellor was placing on the subject. However, wheels grind slowly. But I am confident we will get the equipment before she starts sitting."

In Wiltshire, David Brewer is the

case which hinged on a video filmed from a police helicopter.

"In a case like that, the magistrate would disqualify themselves from hearing it, something magistrates do quite often for a variety of reasons. There is also the concern that magistrates need to see witnesses and defendants so they can read their body language," said Mr Brewer.

"But, first of all, body language is a fairly unreliable measure of truth.

Secondly, sighted magistrates are not trained in any structured way

about reading body language, so arguing that it is an essential element of their decision-making is pretty curious. And thirdly, it is open to blind magistrates to judge someone's truthfulness from clues other than visual ones."

Mr Currie, 64, suffers from a deteriorating eye condition diagnosed 40 years ago. He cannot read but has scanned the 200-page Magistrates' Handbook into his computer which can read it back to him. This provides guidance on offences and penalties, given aggravating or mitigating factors, to ensure consistency of sentencing.

"It is fair to say that if I was involved in a motoring case and the whole thing hinged on a photo of a double-decker bus wrapped around a lamp-post, I wouldn't be very good. But they understand this at the court. They know in advance roughly what the evidence is going to be and can steer one away from cases where it is very visual."

"It is also inconceivable that I would sit with my good friend Peter Carr, so in a bench of three, there will always be two sighted magistrates."

Mr Currie also points to another benefit: "The legal establishment is totally mesmerised about whether people are Freemasons. If someone starts making semaphore signals from the dock, it's not going to influence me."

There is evidence that the black community will be disproportionately affected by the proposed changes and this could well undermine any future efforts to improve their relationship with the criminal justice system.

Research published by the Runnymede Trust in 1990 showed that of defendants who had a choice, one third of Asian defendants, slightly fewer white defendants, but nearly one half (45 per cent) of Afro-Caribbean defendants chose to be tried in front of a

CLASSIFIED

Legal Notices

Mobility

INDEPENDENCE Mobility customer first

QUALITY VALUE SERVICE

BRITISH DESIGNED & BUILT

SAVE

BUY DIRECT from THE BRITISH MANUFACTURER RENT or BUY FREE HOME TRIAL Call 0800 018 2603

Not Just a British Company. A BRITISH MANUFACTURER

Experience the quiet life

THE INDEPENDENT Nanny Classified

If you're an independent reader who needs a Nanny, why not advertise this with us. Call Sobhan McCull today on

Ph: 0171 293 2347 Fax: 0171 293 3156

BLUTHNER'S OFFER up to 4 years

Interest free credit on a wide

range of quality upright and

Grand pianos. For details phone

free on 0800 0180 533. 8 Berke-

ley St, London W1.

Unusual Gifts

A NEWSPAPER for that special

date, 1942-1992, most tiles available,

ideal birthday gift. Remember When. Tel: 0181-688 6222. Or

CALL FREE (0800 520 000)



The cost of legal aid reform

Changes made to the legal aid system must be about value for money, says the Law Society president, Michael Mathews. By Linda Tsang

IN ADDITION to modernising his own

style of dress, dispensing with stockings and replacing them with trousers (except for ceremonial occasions such as the Queen's Speech this week), the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Laird, has also unveiled the package of proposals as "part of a broader programme of modernising justice", which was included in the Speech.

Most of the proposals to be contained in the Access to Justice Bill have already been trailed in the last year.

These include ending the monopoly of barristers appearing in the higher courts, and introducing the Community Legal Service, which would work to match legal services on a local, regional and national basis on a contracted basis to where it is needed.

One of the main purposes of the Bill, and the one that has undoubtedly garnered most of the headlines, is as the Queen said on Tuesday: "to

modernise legal aid and make it fairer and more cost-effective."

The Lord Chancellor has already made it clear that an overhaul of the legal aid system was on the cards. The Bill, which is likely to be published next week, has led to protests from criminal lawyers because of the proposals to restrict criminal legal aid to lawyers who have been granted contracts to provide advice. About 10,000 outlets provide that kind of advice at present.

Under these proposals, figures ranging from between 2,500 and 5,000 have been mentioned as being the possible number of contracts that are likely to be granted.

The argument which has been put forward for the reforms is, that under the current law, any qualified lawyer can do criminal legal aid work and then claim fees according to the work done. This does not guarantee a quality service for defendants, or value for

money for the taxpayer. Under the proposals, the Criminal Defence Service (CDS) is aimed at ensuring that most publicly-funded defence work would be provided by private-sector lawyers under contract.

But the Law Society president, Michael Mathews, says: "The reforms must be about value for money - not cheapness. Legal aid spending is not spiralling out of control. In fact, last year, spending increased by only 1.2 per cent, while the number of people helped increased by 3.2 per cent. The Law Society believes that all competent legal aid firms should be allowed to do legal aid work.

"If the Government imposes arbitrary limits on the number of firms, this will create an unfair restriction on client choice. This is a serious concern in the area of criminal defence work, where a client's ability to choose their own legal representative is a basic human right."

Jack Straw is just taking liberties

OUR LEARNED FRIEND



COURTENAY GRIFFITHS

THIRTY-THREE years ago the Morris Report on Jury Service began with the observation that: "There is, we think, a fundamental conviction in the minds of the public that a jury is in a real sense a safeguard of our liberties. Here is something which reflects the sentiments that have prevailed in this land for so many centuries past."

The Government, in a consultation paper published in July 1998, proposed to further curtail the right to trial by jury in certain "either way" cases - that is, cases in which a defendant can choose between trial in the magistrates' court and trial in the Crown Court.

The transparent motive for the proposed change is cost-cutting. The positive characteristics of summary justice are not legal so much as economic and bureaucratic. Summary justice is fast, easy and cheap.

Trial by jury is too expensive, even justice is now subject to market considerations. Yet this economic imperative is not openly stated, instead we are told that: "The (consultation) paper is concerned not with the merits of jury trial, but with the defendant's ability to choose it."

This is despite the fact that there has been a steady decrease over the last 10 years in the percentage of either-way cases committed to the Crown Court for trial which arrive there because the defendant exercised personal choice, as opposed to being sent there for trial by the magistrates.

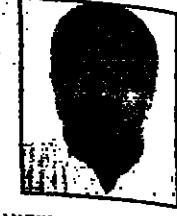
It would appear that the Government is acting in haste and has not fully thought through the implications of this proposal. In particular, its potentially adverse impact on the black community has clearly not been considered. The Home Secretary, Jack Straw, showed sensitivity in setting up the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry. Sir William McPherson's eagerly awaited report is expected to make important recommendations aimed at improving the relationship between the black community and the criminal justice system. The Home Secretary evidently sees no connection with his current proposals. Perhaps he is dizzy, brought on by the sudden U-turn he has made.

Does the Government not see the reservoir of resentment which will inevitably begin to build up in a community already convinced that the criminal justice system does not provide justice for them? The jury is the last place in our institutions where the people take a hand in "administering" themselves. By so doing, they add legitimacy to our system of justice. This is of more than symbolic significance, for as that great 18th-century jurist Blackstone observed:

"Delays and little

inconveniences in the forms of justice are the price all free nations must pay for their liberty in more substantial matters."

Courtenay Griffiths QC is a barrister at 2 Garden Court, London EC4

raw is
king
tiesOUR
LEARNED
FRIEND

COURTENAY GRIFFITHS

udge and jury. The authors of the report regarded this difference as "highly statistically significant". They concluded that "At very least, these figures suggest a marked reluctance by Afro-Caribbean defendants where they have a measure of control - to be tried at the local magistrates' court."

These figures were later confirmed by Roger Hood in a report prepared for the commission for Racial Equality.

It would further appear that Afro-Caribbean defendants are making an informed and rational decision in removing themselves from the process of magisterial judgement. To begin with, only 2 per cent of magistrates are non-white. Further, the Home Office is currently conducting pilot studies into the differences in outcomes between ethnic groups being tried in magistrates' courts and the Crown Court. This research is still at an early stage.

However, initial findings in Leicester Magistrates' Court showed that 13 per cent of black defendants were sentenced to immediate custody for their offences, compared with 5 per cent for white defendants.

This is a startling statistic. Further, white defendants are granted unconditional bail at a significantly greater rate than their black counterparts - over 60 per cent compared with 44 per cent for black defendants. Is my surprise that there is an disproportionate number of black defendants in prison?

Does the Government see the reservoir of discontent which will inevitably begin to build up in communities already convinced that the criminal justice system does not provide justice for them? They are the last place in our institutions where the people like a hand in administering themselves.

By so doing, they add legitimacy to our system of justice. This is of more than symbolic significance, for it is great 18th century jurist Blackstone observed:

"Doubtless, and little inconveniences in the forms of justice are the price all the actions must pay for their being in more substantial matters."

Murphy Griffiths QC
Chairwoman, Bar Committee
West London FCU

reform
value for money
By Linda Tsang

for the taxpayer. Under the Criminal Defence Service, funded defence work would be carried out by private-sector lawyers contracted. But the Law Society, Michael Mathews, says it must be about value for money. Legal aid spending is falling out of control. In fact, spending increased by only 1 per cent. The Law Society believes that all competing legal services should be allowed to do so.

If Government imposes strict limits on the number of cases, it creates an unfair restriction of criminal defence and a client's ability to choose his/her representative is a basic right.

NEW FILMS

ANGEL SHARKS (15)

Director: Manuel Prada
Starring: Valeria Golino, Frédéric Malgras
Prada's handsome debut feature has seductive surface qualities, and its disjointed scenes of adolescent decadence are engaging. But despite the spirited sex and violence, it's empty, pretentious stuff, a sunny triumph of form over content. West End: ABC Swiss Centre

DEAD MAN'S CURVE (15)

Director: Dan Rosen
Starring: Matthew Lillard
First-time writer-director Rosen must have had some awful experiences at university. All the students at his nameless American college are trying to double-cross and butcher each other, tempted by an obscure regulation that awards straight A-grades to room-mates of suicides. Though not as deliciously nasty as the *Scream* films, *Dead Man's Curve* delivers a respectable quota of drive-in shocks. West End: Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

THE EER (18)

Director: Sohei Imamura
Starring: Koji Yakusho
Imamura's first film for over 10 years is as slippery as they come. One moment we're watching a taciturn office clerk (Koji Yakusho) carving up his wife, the next we've slithered forward 10 years and he's opening a barber's shop in a remote community. It's often difficult to get a grip on the film's stylistic shifts, but Imamura's determined avoidance of the obvious does him credit. West End: Curzon Soho

THE FOUNTAINHEAD (PG)

Director: King Vidor
Starring: Gary Cooper, Raymond Massey, Patricia Neal
Vidor's monstrously overdesigned melodrama features a miscast Cooper as an architect who takes on Massey's evil corporate boss. Adapted from Ayn Rand's novel, it uses Expressionistic camerawork and cod-Freudian symbolism to construct a bizarre moral message: that we should celebrate the young entrepreneur as a Nietzschean superman. Albert Speer for President, anyone? West End: Curzon Soho

Matthew Sweet

GENERAL RELEASE

ANTZ (PG)

This computer-animated trifile is surely the most unlikely Woody Allen movie we will ever see. He provides the voice of worker-ant "Z", who breaks out of his totalitarian rut when he falls in with Princess Bala (Sharon Stone). West End: ABC Tooting Court Road, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

BLADE (18)

A monotonous arcade-game thriller about a New York vampire-killer tackling a power-crazed bloodsucker. West End: Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

ELIZABETH (15)

Shekhar Kapur's follow-up to *Bandit Queen* is the story of a female figurehead struggling to gain purchase in a male world. But Kapur largely neglects the opportunities for fun in a story of independence triumphing over cruelty. West End: ABC Baker Street, Clapham Picture House, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Haymarket, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Green, Virgin Haymarket

THE EXORCIST (25TH ANNIVERSARY RERELEASE) (18)

Friedkin's seminal horror is still efficiently terrifying. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Odeon Camden Town, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

FEAR AND LOATHING IN LAS VEGAS (18)

Terry Gilliam's adaptation fails at Ralph Steadman cartoonery for its tale of a drug-fuelled journalistic assignment. The one stand-out is Johnny Depp, who brings Hunter S Thompson to bald-headed, gogeon-toe life. West End: ABC Baker Street, Clapham Picture House, Empire Leicester Square, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket

FIRE (15)

Deepa Mehta's Indian-Canadian co-production mounts a vibrant, at times potent, attack on the Indian family set-up, with its tale of a fractious New Delhi brood. West End: Curzon Soho

HENRY POOL (18)

See the Independent Recommends, above. West End: Clapham Picture House, Curzon Soho, Renoir, Richmond Filmhouse, Ritzy Cinema

HOPE FLOATS (PG)

This winsome piece stars Sandra Bullock as a town-in-the-dumps ex-beauty queen. Cue Gena Rowlands as her mum, Harry Connick Jr as a baldy handyman, and acres of bumper-sticker wisdom. West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

INSOMNIA (18)

Dubbed a "film blanc" by its creator, *Insomnia* transplants noir stylings to summertime Norway. The cop hero drifts into a mental meltdown as he probes a teenager's murder. West End: Metro

THE KNOWLEDGE OF HEALING (NC)

Franz Reiche's documentary serves us up with a crash course in Tibetan medicine, but the whole thing proves too info-heavy and indigestible. West End: Renoir

LEFT LUGGAGE (PG)

Jeroen Krabbe's first stab as a director results in an uncertain soap opera, focusing on the ebb and flows within a Hasidic family in 1970s Holland. West End: ABC Pantin Street, Curzon Mayfair, Screen on the Hill

LES MISÉRABLES (12)

Director: Bill August
Starring: Liam Neeson, Uma Thurman, Geoffrey Rush

Bill August turns Victor Hugo's enormous novel into an enormous film, that's as traditional as literary adaptations come these days. It's earnest and almost humourless - those who like a touch of camp to their costume dramas will have to content themselves with a cameo by Nursie from *Blackadder* as Neeson's gurning housekeeper. West End: Odeon West End, UCI Whiteleys

RONIN (15)

Director: John Frankenheimer
Starring: Jean Reno, Robert De Niro, Sean Bean

There's an air of knackered resignation about Frankenheimer's latest movie, an espionage thriller about a gang of mercenaries in pursuit of a mysterious silver suitcase. As the leader of the gang, Robert De Niro does his blank-faced, gristle-chewing act. Sean Bean - as an Andy McNab type, who uses quaint criminal slang like "swag" - is mercifully dispatched in the second reel. As dull as ditch-water. West End: Barbican Screen, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road

ROUNDERS (15)

Director: John Dahl
Starring: Matt Damon, Edward Norton, John Malkovich

The main problem with Dahl's poker-club thriller is that the golden-boy star, Matt Damon, is comprehensively out-acted by almost everyone else: by his co-star, Edward Norton, who brings an authentic shittiness to the role of card-sharp best mate; and by the monstrously hammy John Malkovich, as the Muscovite Mr Big. West End: Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

Matthew Sweet

LOCK, STOCK & TWO SMOKING BARRELS (18)

Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels follows the lead of Quentin Tarantino, but the film's defining characteristic is its relentless morality. The picture is peopled by thugs, both amateur and professional. Young Eddy, who comes unstuck in a high-stakes card game, falls into the former category; but Hatchet Harry, to whom he owes £500,000, is a dangerous old-school pro. West End: Odeon Mezzanine, Screen on the Green, Warner Village West End

MULAN (U)

A girl disguises herself as a soldier to spare her ailing father from the certain death of combat, in one of the most visually innovative movies that Disney has ever made. West End: Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Green, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

THE ODD COUPLE II (15)

The follow-up to Neil Simon's 1960s fist-share favourite dispatches its mismatched couple off to a wedding and then strands them in the desert. All manner of comedy set-pieces result, but the stars work hard to keep it upright. West End: Plaza

A PERFECT MURDER (15)

This remake of Hitchcock's classic *Dial M for Murder* is not bad at all. Michael Douglas stars as the city shark who blackmails an artist into killing his heiress wife, Gwyneth Paltrow. This is gold-plated trash: the sort of thing Hollywood does better than anyone else. West End: ABC Pantin Street, Virgin Fulham Road, Warner Village West End

THE ODD COUPLE III (15)

The follow-up to Neil Simon's 1960s fist-share favourite dispatches its mismatched couple off to a wedding and then strands them in the desert. All manner of comedy set-pieces result, but the stars work hard to keep it upright. West End: Plaza

A PERFECT MURDER (15)

This remake of Hitchcock's classic *Dial M for Murder* is not bad at all. Michael Douglas stars as the city shark who blackmails an artist into killing his heiress wife, Gwyneth Paltrow. This is gold-plated trash: the sort of thing Hollywood does better than anyone else. West End: ABC Pantin Street, Virgin Fulham Road, Warner Village West End

PRIMARY COLORS (15)

See the Independent Recommends, above. West End: Plaza, UCI Whiteleys

SMALL SOLDIERS (PG)

Children's adventure about a batch of toy soldiers brought to life by a military microchip. Director Joe Dante draws some nice parallels with his own best film, *Gremlins*. West End: Hammersmith Virgin, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

SNAP! (15)

This winsome piece stars Sandra Bullock as a town-in-the-dumps ex-beauty queen. Cue Gena Rowlands as her mum, Harry Connick Jr as a baldy handyman, and acres of bumper-sticker wisdom. West End: Metro

SNAKE EYES (15)

Brian De Palma's Atlantic City-set conspiracy thriller plays its mystery plotline as a kind of quickie jigsaw. Our nominal puzzle-solver is Nic Cage's swaggering local cop, whose investigation soon brings him up against Gary Sinise's Navy commander. West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY (15)

Ben Stiller and Cameron Diaz star in this latest comedy from the writer-director team of Peter and Bobby Farrelly. The film is basically a romantic comedy of the kind that drifts out of Hollywood on a regular basis. West End: Odeon Mezzanine, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

THE TRUMAN SHOW (PG)

Peter Weir's comedy about a man (Jim Carrey) who discovers that his whole existence has been broadcast to the world. The film is very funny, due more to the cleverness of Andrew Niccol's script than its star's presence. West End: Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Virgin Trocadero

Matthew Sweet

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS



Film Liese Spencer

"WHAT WENT down on the way to the top," screams the poster for Primary Colors (left). After the Starr Report, you don't really have to watch Mike Nichols' rather respectful political satire to find out what did go down, but it still makes for entertaining viewing.

John Travolta, as the sexually incontinent presidential candidate Jack Stanton, gives an uncanny impression of Clinton and Emma Thompson trumps it up as his wife. But the real acting honours go to Adrian Lester as the political

On general release

Hal Hartley, the arch chronicler of small-town angst, grows up with his new film *Henry Fool*, a gleefully scatological fable about the friendship

between a visionary stranger and a lousy garbage man. Losing his cool, at last, Hartley creates his first full-blooded hero in the wonderfully rambunctious figure of Henry, played to perfection by Thomas Jay Ryan.

On general release

Theatre Dominic Cavendish

YOU CAN see why Conchita Lovett has been compared to the likes of Eddie Izzard and Ardal O'Hanlon, as well as great Samuel Beckett (below). Lovett delivers extracts from the 1951 novel Molloy with a beautiful hazziness which perfectly accommodates the absurd one-liners, the coarse gallows humour and speculative riddling of this lost soul, hobbling his way to his old ma, "whose charity kept me dying".

Riverside Studios, London W6

(0171-740 0000) 7.45pm

Method and Madness' version of James Ellroy's *The Black Dahlia* attempts to cram in as many of the savage plot-twists surrounding the obsessive central murder investigation as possible. But director Mike Alfreds still cranks up the tension with a dynamic visual approach that relishes Ellroy's dystopian vision of Forties LA.

ABC Pantin Street

(0171-902 0040) 7pm

ABC BAKER STREET

(0870 9020418) 7pm

ABC PANTON STREET

(0870 902 0040) 7pm

ABC SHAFTEBURY AVENUE

(0870-902 0040) 7pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT

(0870-902 0041) 7pm

ABC WEST END

(0870-902 0041) 7pm

ABC CINEMA

(0171-351 3742) 7pm

CINEMA WEST END

(0171-351 3742) 7pm

CINEMA WEST END

(0171-351 3742) 7pm

CINEMA WEST END

(0171-351 3742) 7pm

WARNER VILLAGE (0181-427 9009) ♦ Harrow Antz. 1pm-11pm Antz. 12.30pm-2.30pm, 7.05pm, 9.10pm. Blade 1.05pm, 3.45pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm. The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Release) 6.30pm, 9.30pm. Hope Floats 1.20pm, 6.30pm. Les Misérables 1.20pm, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm. Mutan 12.05pm, 2.10pm, 4.15pm. Ronin 1.20pm, 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 9pm. 9.40pm. Rounders 12.30pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.50pm. Small Soldiers 11.15am, 1.45pm, 4.15pm. Snake Eyes 6.25pm, 8.40pm. There's Something About Mary 3.50pm, 9.05pm. The Truman Show 4.20pm, 9.50pm.

HOLLOWAY ODEON (08705 050007) ♦ Anch-way Antz. 1.10pm, 3.05pm, 5.20pm, 7.20pm, 9.20pm. Blade 1pm, 3.35pm, 6.15pm, 8.50pm. Dead Man's Curve 1.05pm, 3.10pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm. The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Release) 12.45pm, 3.20pm, 5.50pm, 8.35pm. Hope Floats 12.55pm, 6pm. Ronin 1.35pm, 3.35pm, 6.15pm, 8.50pm. Rounders 12.35pm, 3.15pm, 5.55pm, 8.40pm. Small Soldiers 1.25pm, 3.40pm. Snake Eyes 4.35pm, 9.05pm. There's Something About Mary 3.25pm, 8.45pm. The Truman Show 12.05pm, 2.20pm, 6.50pm.

ILFORD ODEON (08705 050007) ♦ Gants Hill Antz. 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 7pm, 9pm. Blade 12.40pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm. The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Release) 1.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm. Rounders 12.40pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm. Snake Eyes 1.10pm, 6.05pm.

KINGSTON ABC (0870-9020409) BR: Kingston Antz. 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm. The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Release) 2.20pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm. Rounders 1.20pm, 3.15pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9pm.

MUSWELL HILL ODEON (08705 050007) ♦ Highgate Antz. 2.30pm, 3.15pm, 5.05pm, 7pm, 8.50pm. Black 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.10pm. Ronin 2.30pm, 5.50pm, 8.20pm.

PECKHAM PREMIER (0181-235 3006) BR: Peckham Antz. 11.50am, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm. The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Release) 4.05pm, 6.25pm, 9.10pm. Halloween: H2 9.45pm. Hope Floats 6.40pm, 9.15pm. Mutan 11.45am, 3.35pm, 5.30am. A Perfect Murder 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.25pm. Ronin 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 9pm. Small Soldiers 11.55am, 4.25pm. Snake Eyes 7.20pm, 9.40pm.

PURLEY ABC (0870-9020407) BR: Purley Antz. 6.15pm, 8.40pm. Elizabeth 5.30pm, 8.10pm. Ronin 5.40pm, 8.20pm.

PUTNEY ABC (0870 9020401) ♦ Putney Bridge Antz. 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 8.45pm. Elizabeth 3pm, 5.30pm. The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Release) 2.15pm, 4.55pm, 8.30pm. Hope Floats 1.20pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9pm.

RICHMOND ODEON (08705 050007) BR: Richmond Antz. 1.10pm, 3.20pm, 5.30pm, 7.40pm, 9.40pm. Ronin 12.40pm, 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm. Rounders 12.10pm, 3.10pm, 5.60pm, 8.45pm.

ODEON STUDIO (08705 050007) BR: Richmond Antz. 1.10pm, 3.20pm, 5.30pm, 7.40pm, 9.40pm. Ronin 12.40pm, 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm. Rounders 12.10pm, 3.10pm, 5.60pm, 8.45pm.

RICHMOND ODEON (08705 050007) BR: Richmond Antz. 1.10pm, 3.20pm, 5.30pm, 7.40pm, 9.40pm. Ronin 12.40pm, 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm. Rounders 12.10pm, 3.10pm, 5.60pm, 8.45pm.

RIMFORD ABC (0870-9020409) BR: Rimford Antz. 2.25pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.35pm. Blade 2.20pm, 5.30pm, 8.10pm. Ronin 2.10pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm.

ROMFORD ABC (0870-9020409) BR: Rimford Antz. 2.25pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.35pm. Blade 2.20pm, 5.30pm, 8.10pm. Ronin 2.10pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm.

SIDCUP ABC (0541-555131) BR: Sidcup Antz. 6pm. Hope Floats 8.30pm. Phenomenon 11.30am, 3.30pm. Ronin 5.40pm, 8.20pm.

STAPLES CORNER VIRGIN (0870-9070717) BR: Cricketwood Antz. 12.40pm, 2.45pm, 4.50pm, 7pm, 9.15pm. Elizabeth 3.20pm, 6.20pm, 9.15pm. The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Release) 1.20pm, 3.15pm, 5.60pm, 8.45pm. Ronin 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.40pm. Rounders 1.20pm, 3.10pm, 5.60pm, 8.45pm.

STEATHAM ABC (0870-9020415) BR: Steatham Hill Antz. 2.15pm, 4.20pm, 6.25pm, 8.40pm. Fear And Loathing In Las Vegas 2.25pm, 5.40pm, 8.25pm. Hope Floats 2.30pm, 5.45pm. There's Something About Mary 8.30pm.

ODEON (08705 050007) BR: Streatham Hill Antz. 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm. Elizabeth 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm. The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Release) 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm. Ronin 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm. Rounders 12.10pm, 3.10pm, 5.60pm, 8.40pm.

ODEON (08705 050007) BR: Streatham Hill Antz. 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm. Elizabeth 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm. The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Release) 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm. Ronin 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm. Rounders 12.10pm, 3.10pm, 5.60pm, 8.40pm.

ODEON (08705 050007) BR: Streatham Hill Antz. 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm. Elizabeth 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm. The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Release) 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm. Ronin 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm. Rounders 12.10pm, 3.10pm, 5.60pm, 8.40pm.

ODEON (08705 050007) BR: Streatham Hill Antz. 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm. Elizabeth 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm. The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Release) 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm. Ronin 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm. Rounders 12.10pm, 3.10pm, 5.60pm, 8.40pm.

ODEON (08705 050007) BR: Streatham Hill Antz. 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm. Elizabeth 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm. The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Release) 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm. Ronin 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm. Rounders 12.10pm, 3.10pm, 5.60pm, 8.40pm.

ODEON (08705 050007) BR: Streatham Hill Antz. 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm. Elizabeth 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm. The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Release) 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm. Ronin 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm. Rounders 12.10pm, 3.10pm, 5.60pm, 8.40pm.

ODEON (08705 050007) BR: Streatham Hill Antz. 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm. Elizabeth 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm. The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Release) 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm. Ronin 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm. Rounders 12.10pm, 3.10pm, 5.60pm, 8.40pm.

ODEON (08705 050007) BR: Streatham Hill Antz. 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm. Elizabeth 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm. The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Release) 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm. Ronin 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm. Rounders 12.10pm, 3.10pm, 5.60pm, 8.40pm.

ODEON (08705 050007) BR: Streatham Hill Antz. 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm. Elizabeth 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm. The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Release) 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm. Ronin 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm. Rounders 12.10pm, 3.10pm, 5.60pm, 8.40pm.

ODEON (08705 050007) BR: Streatham Hill Antz. 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm. Elizabeth 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm. The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Release) 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm. Ronin 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm. Rounders 12.10pm, 3.10pm, 5.60pm, 8.40pm.

ODEON (08705 050007) BR: Streatham Hill Antz. 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm. Elizabeth 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm. The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Release) 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm. Ronin 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm. Rounders 12.10pm, 3.10pm, 5.60pm, 8.40pm.

ODEON (08705 050007) BR: Streatham Hill Antz. 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm. Elizabeth 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm. The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Release) 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm. Ronin 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm. Rounders 12.10pm, 3.10pm, 5.60pm, 8.40pm.

ODEON (08705 050007) BR: Streatham Hill Antz. 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm. Elizabeth 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm. The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Release) 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm. Ronin 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm. Rounders 12.10pm, 3.10pm, 5.60pm, 8.40pm.

ODEON (08705 050007) BR: Streatham Hill Antz. 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm. Elizabeth 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm. The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Release) 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm. Ronin 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm. Rounders 12.10pm, 3.10pm, 5.60pm, 8.40pm.

ODEON (08705 050007) BR: Streatham Hill Antz. 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm. Elizabeth 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm. The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Release) 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm. Ronin 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm. Rounders 12.10pm, 3.10pm, 5.60pm, 8.40pm.

ODEON (08705 050007) BR: Streatham Hill Antz. 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm. Elizabeth 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm. The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Release) 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm. Ronin 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm. Rounders 12.10pm, 3.10pm, 5.60pm, 8.40pm.

ODEON (08705 050007) BR: Streatham Hill Antz. 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm. Elizabeth 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm. The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Release) 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm. Ronin 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm. Rounders 12.10pm, 3.10pm, 5.60pm, 8.40pm.

ODEON (08705 050007) BR: Streatham Hill Antz. 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm. Elizabeth 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm. The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Release) 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm. Ronin 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm. Rounders 12.10pm, 3.10pm, 5.60pm, 8.40pm.

ODEON (08705 050007) BR: Streatham Hill Antz. 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm. Elizabeth 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm. The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Release) 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm. Ronin 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm. Rounders 12.10pm, 3.10pm, 5.60pm, 8.40pm.

ODEON (08705 050007) BR: Streatham Hill Antz. 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm. Elizabeth 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm. The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Release) 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm. Ronin 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm. Rounders 12.10pm, 3.10pm, 5.60pm, 8.40pm.

ODEON (08705 050007) BR: Streatham Hill Antz. 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm. Elizabeth 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm. The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Release) 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm. Ronin 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm. Rounders 12.10pm, 3.10pm, 5.60pm, 8.40pm.

ODEON (08705 050007) BR: Streatham Hill Antz. 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm. Elizabeth 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm. The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Release) 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm. Ronin 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm. Rounders 12.10pm, 3.10pm, 5.60pm, 8.40pm.

ODEON (08705 050007) BR: Streatham Hill Antz. 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm. Elizabeth 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm. The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Release) 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm. Ronin 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm. Rounders 12.10pm, 3.10pm, 5.60pm, 8.40pm.

THURSDAY RADIO

RADIO 1
(97.3-99.8MHz FM)
7.30 Zoe Ball 9.00 Simon Mayo.
12.00 Kevin Greening. 2.00 Mark Radcliffe. 4.00 Chris Moyles. 5.45 Newsbeat. 6.00 Dave Pearce. 8.00 The Evening Session. 10.00 Trade Update. 10.30 John Peel. 12.00 Andy Kershaw. 2.00 Clive Warren. 4.00 - 6.30 Scott Mills.

RADIO 2
(88.9-92MHz FM)
6.00 Sarah Kennedy. 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan. 9.30 Ken Bruce. 12.00 John Inverdale. 2.00 Ed Stewart. 5.05 Johnnie Walker. 7.00 David Allan. 8.00 Paul Jones. 9.00 The Al Read Show. 9.30 The News Huddlines. 10.00 Girls and Guitars. 10.30 Richard Alinson. 12.00 Katrina Leskanich. 3.00 Alex Lester.

RADIO 3
(90.2-94MHz FM)
6.00 On Air.
9.00 Masterworks.
10.30 Artist of the Week.
11.00 Sound Stories.
12.00 Composer of the Week Josquin.

1.00 Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert.
2.00 The BBC Orchestras.
4.00 Ensemble. See Pick of the Day.
4.45 Music Machine.

5.00 In Tune.
7.30 Performance on 3. Live from the Barbican, a concert given as part of the 'Inventing America' series which includes a classic piece of American contemporary music by Steve Reich. 'The Desert Music' pulsates about the decline of man in the modern age and the wasteland of civilisation, post-Hiroshima. BBC Singers, City of London Sinfonia/Marni Alton. Frank Zappa, The Perfect Stranger; Dupress Paradise; Milton Babbitt; Around the Horn. Ruth Crawford Seeger: Three American Songs.

8.30 New Music. By Carol Shields. She studies Tchaik's deals in reinforced concrete. So what is the attraction? A new story by Carol Shields specially commissioned with BBC Music Magazine. Reader David Thrifat.

8.30 Concert, part 2. Steve Reich: The Desert Music.

9.35 Postscript. Nicholas Ward Jackson explores the contemporary art world. Tonight, he joins Jane and

PICK OF THE DAY

AKADEMGORODOK, THE city founded by Khrushchev (right) 40 years ago as a kind of greenhouse for Soviet science, is visited by Crossing Continents (11am R4). But post-Communist economic collapse has led to an immense brain-drain, and the city isolated in a great Siberian forest, is struggling with poverty.

More cheerfully, Ensemble (4pm R3) looks at humour in

music, with contributions from Haydn, Satie and Jean Francaix, one of the very few composers who can make witty sounds.

New Radio (11.30pm R4 FM), a series of programmes by first-time producers, is sadly short on humour and originality. But the last of today's three pieces, a diary made by a Gulf War tank commander, grabs the attention.

ROBERT HANKS

Louise Wilson as they prepare for the shoot of their new film at the decommissioned Greenham Common air force base. As they rummage through hangers and bunkers, the Wilsons discuss their fascination with the Cold War and talk about the experience of filming Stasi City' in Berlin.

10.00 Music Restored. 'Taking Our Leave'. Lucy Skeaping introduces another compilation from this year's York Early Music Festival. Music by Byrd, de Ron, Batcheler, Handel, Gabrieli, Arcadelt, Vecchi and Gibbons.

10.45 Night Waves. How far can people from one culture ever fully understand another? Do outsiders see more clearly, or are we all condemned to simplification and stereotype? Italian writer Roberto Calasso won international acclaim for his evocation of the mental landscape of Greek classical culture, 'The Marriage of Cadmus and Harmony'. In his new book, 'Ka', he has turned to India, exploring the notion of Indianness through its stories and customs. Paul Allen and guests discuss 'Ka' and other Western attempts to define a sense of difference in the East.

11.30 Jazz Notes.

12.00 Composer of the Week: Brahms. (R)

1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

RADIO 4 (92.9-94.8MHz FM)

6.00 Today.

9.00 NEWS: In Our Time with Melvyn Bragg.

9.30 Shorelines.

9.45 Serial: The Interesting Name.

10.00 NEWS: Woman's Hour.

11.00 NEWS: Crossing Continents. See Pick of the Day.

11.30 Colvi and Soames: Bad Apples.

12.00 NEWS: You and Yours.

1.00 The World at One.

1.30 Brain of Britain 1998.

2.00 NEWS: The Archers.

2.45 Afternoon Play. (R)

3.00 NEWS: Call You and Yours.

0771 520 4444.

3.45 Speaker's Corner. (R)

4.00 NEWS: Law in Action.

4.30 The Material World.

5.00 PM.

6.00 Six O'Clock News.

6.30 Kate and Cindy.

7.00 NEWS: The Archers.

7.30 Front Row. Francine Stock chairs the night's arts programme.

7.45 Still Waters. Part 14 by Simon Gaskin. Kate and Douglas become involved in the rescue of a young girl from the clutches of a mysterious cult. With Ann Scott-Jones, Emma Currie, Liam Brennan and James Bryson. Director David Jackson Young.

8.00 NEWS: Pop. Economist Bridget Rosewell continues her three-part history of bubbles, booms and crashes, everywhere from stockmarket kiosks to supermarkets. 'Bust'.

8.30 The Week in Westminster.

Rachel Sylvester of the Independent on Sunday looks behind the scenes at Westminster.

9.00 NEWS: Leading Edge. Geoff Watts looks at the latest ideas behind mass extinctions.

11.30 New Radio. See Pick of the Day.

12.00 News.

12.30 The Late Book: A Man in Full.

12.45 Shipping Forecast.

1.00 World Service.

5.30 World News.

5.35 Shipping Forecast.

5.40 Inshore Forecast.

5.45 Prayer for the Day.

5.45 - 6.00 Farming Today.

RADIO 4 LW (198kHz)

5.45 - 10.00 Daily Service. 12.00 - 12.04 News: Shipping Forecast.

5.54 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast.

1.10 - 7.00 Today in Parliament.

RADIO 5 LIVE (93.9-98.8MHz MW)

6.00 Breakfast.

9.00 Nicky Campbell.

12.00 The Midday News.

1.00 Ruscos and Co.

9.30 In Our Time with Melvyn Bragg. Melvyn Bragg continues his look at ideas and events which have influenced our time.

10.00 The World Tonight.

10.45 Book at Bedtime: Another World. In Pat Barker's new novel, a fractious family and a dying soldier reveal the past's power to haunt and distort the present. Abridged by Doreen Eastall, read by Robert Glenister. (4/10).

11.00 The Cradles. By Mike Hawkins and Griff Rhys Jones. Comedy family the Cradleys continue their traumas in another exclusive from Copper Mount. With Simon Godley, Felicity Montagu, Perry Benson, Emma Amos and Geoffrey McGivern.

11.30 MacLean's Memories. 1998.

12.00 New Radio. See Pick of the Day.

12.30 News.

12.45 The Late Book: A Man in Full.

1.00 World Service.

5.30 News.

5.35 Shipping Forecast.

5.40 Inshore Forecast.

5.45 Prayer for the Day.

5.45 - 6.00 Farming Today.

RADIO 4 LW (198kHz)

5.45 - 10.00 Daily Service. 12.00 - 12.04 News: Shipping Forecast.

5.54 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast.

1.10 - 7.00 Today in Parliament.

RADIO 5 LIVE (93.9-98.8MHz MW)

6.00 Breakfast.

9.00 Nicky Campbell.

12.00 The Midday News.

1.00 Ruscos and Co.

9.30 In Our Time with Melvyn Bragg. Melvyn Bragg continues his look at ideas and events which have influenced our time.

10.00 The World Tonight.

10.45 Book at Bedtime: Another World. In Pat Barker's new novel, a fractious family and a dying soldier reveal the past's power to haunt and distort the present. Abridged by Doreen Eastall, read by Robert Glenister. (4/10).

11.00 The Cradles. By Mike Hawkins and Griff Rhys Jones. Comedy family the Cradleys continue their traumas in another exclusive from Copper Mount. With Simon Godley, Felicity Montagu, Perry Benson, Emma Amos and Geoffrey McGivern.

11.30 MacLean's Memories. 1998.

12.00 New Radio. See Pick of the Day.

12.30 News.

12.45 The Late Book: A Man in Full.

1.00 World Service.

5.30 News.

5.35 Shipping Forecast.

5.40 Inshore Forecast.

5.45 Prayer for the Day.

5.45 - 6.00 Farming Today.

RADIO 4 LW (198kHz)

5.45 - 10.00 Daily Service. 12.00 - 12.04 News: Shipping Forecast.

5.54 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast.

1.10 - 7.00 Today in Parliament.

RADIO 5 LIVE (93.9-98.8MHz MW)

6.00 Breakfast.

9.00 Nicky Campbell.

12.00 The Midday News.

1.00 Ruscos and Co.

9.30 In Our Time with Melvyn Bragg. Melvyn Bragg continues his look at ideas and events which have influenced our time.

10.00 The World Tonight.

10.45 Book at Bedtime: Another World. In Pat Barker's new novel, a fractious family and a dying soldier reveal the past's power to haunt and distort the present. Abridged by Doreen Eastall, read by Robert Glenister. (4/10).

11.00 The Cradles. By Mike Hawkins and Griff Rhys Jones. Comedy family the Cradleys continue their traumas in another exclusive from Copper Mount. With Simon Godley, Felicity Montagu, Perry Benson, Emma Amos and Geoffrey McGivern.

11.30 MacLean's Memories. 1998.

12.00 New Radio. See Pick of the Day.

12.30 News.

12.45 The Late Book: A Man in Full.

1.00 World Service.

5.30 News.

5.35 Shipping Forecast.

5.40 Inshore Forecast.

5.45 Prayer for the Day.

5.45 - 6.00 Farming Today.

RADIO 4 LW (198kHz)

5.45 - 10.00 Daily Service. 12.00 - 12.04 News: Shipping Forecast.

5.54 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast.

1.10 - 7.00 Today in Parliament.

RADIO 5 LIVE (93.9-98.8MHz MW)

6.00 Breakfast.

9.00 Nicky Campbell.

12.00 The Midday News.

1.00 Ruscos and Co.

9.30 In Our Time with Melvyn Bragg. Melvyn Bragg continues his look at ideas and events which have influenced our time.

10.00 The World Tonight.

10.45 Book at Bedtime: Another World. In Pat Barker's new novel, a fractious family and a dying soldier reveal the past's power to haunt and distort the present. Abridged by Doreen Eastall, read by Robert Glenister. (4/10).

11.00 The Cr

